FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Several soldiers and civilians were killed in artillery exchanges between the Army and opposition forces around Beirut on 1 February, according to reports by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has placed its forces on maximum alert. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian and Libyan armored vehicles have moved westward toward the Ash-Shuf from the Al-Biqa' valley.

An IDF spokesman, in an announcement carried by ITIM, said Israeli security forces have captured 15 "terrorists," including a village shaykh, responsible for several attacks on the IDF.

Junblatt View — The security plan is a "waste of time" and a "decisive battle" is inescapable since a solution with the Phalangists is impossible, PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared in a speech broadcast by his party's clandestine radio station, the Voice of the Mountain. Sharply criticizing the use of the Lebanese Army to further the "covetous designs" of the Al-Jumayyil family and the Phalange Party, Junblatt said Lebanon needs a "serious political solution" that would dissolve sectarian barriers, redistribute wealth more equitably, and align the country with Syria.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd will begin a visit to France on 4 February in accordance with an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand, the Royal Court announced in a statement carried by SPA.

In another development, Crown Prince 'Abdallah sharply criticized U.S. policy in Lebanon while addressing a U.S. delegation, Riyadh radio reported. Asserting that he does not comprehend the role of the Marines in Lebanon, 'Abdallah said it is a "sheer shame" that U.S. forces are there to protect "certain individuals" and to implement a policy based on "wrong advice." He also condemned "undeclared designs" behind the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement that "are directed against the interests of the Arab nation."

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Mali on 1 February and was received by the president, General Moussa Traore, according to Bamako radio. On the other hand, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said 'Arafat was in Sudan after holding talks with King Hassan II in Rabat the previous night. According to the radio, 'Arafat and Hassan discussed the "positive results" of the ICO delegation's visit to Egypt.

PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman welcomed Egypt's return to the ICO and said Egyptian support will strengthen the PLO and allow it to "enter the world from its widest door," WAKH reported. He added that it is "too early" for the PLO to consider shifting its headquarters from Tunis to Cairo. Meanwhile, Israel has banned Palestinians in the occupied territories from going to Jordan to meet with 'Arafat when he arrives there, according to Jerusalem television.

Jordan

King Husayn arrived in London on 1 February en route to the United States for medical tests, Amman radio reported.

Israel

The coalition was defeated in the Knesset by a vote of 48 to 46 on a motion dealing with the establishment of a Jewish community in Hebron, Jerusalem radio reported. In a separate development, a public call-up exercise is to be held soon to test the efficiency of the full IDF call-up method, the radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, warned residents of seven Iranian cities near the border that "chosen targets" within the cities will be struck "after 6 February." The spokesman urged Iranians to move from the cities in order to avoid "our missiles and bombs."

Iranian "military sources" cited by IRNA denied that Iraq had destroyed five "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area on 31 January. The Iranian military communique for 1 February, broadcast by Tehran radio, did not mention a second attack on Iranian naval forces in the same area on 1 February or claims that Iraq had destroyed three Iranian targets.

Iran

Any action undertaken by the Iraqi regime around Khark Island will meet with a "severe response" from Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Reza'i reaffirmed in an interview cited by IRNA. Forces dispatched to the southern Iranian islands are armed and kept on "full alert" to safeguard the area, the commander added. He also expressed satisfaction with the combat readiness of forces stationed in Hormozgan Province, IRNA reported.

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PLO Spokesman Denies Assassination Charges

JN020751 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In Tunis the PLO has refuted Libyan accusations that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is using Tunis as a center for planning sabotage operations against Libya. Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan stated that the PLO has nothing to do with any operation against Libyan citizens, stressing that the PLO has not resorted to terrorism against Libya or any other country.

Khalid al-Hasan added that the PLO does not carry out any military activities in Tunisia and that it remains committed to its pledges toward the country which is hosting it. The Palestinian official challenged the Libyan authorities to produce any evidence that Yasir 'Arafat is involved in assassination operations perpetrated against Libyan citizens aborad.

INA: Al-Hasan Continues Activities in U.S.

JN011907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 1 Feb (INA) — Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan met in Washington today with Ahmad Khalil, Egypt's ambassador in Washington [as received] and the current president of the UN Security Council. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the 90-minute meeting dealt with Zionist violations of the Palestinian people's rights in the occupied territories, the repeated Zionist aggressions against Islamic and Christian holy places, and Israel's policy of annexing, Judaizing, and expropriating Arab land. WAFA said that Hani al-Hasan stressed to the Egyptian ambassador the need for a UN Security Council move to stop the Zionist aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places.

On another level, Hani al-Hasan met with members of the Palestinian communities in the states of New York and New Jersey within his activities in the United States.

PLO Spokesman on Egypt's Return, Other Issues

GF011832 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Rabat, 1 Feb (WAKH) — PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman described the visit of the committee emerging from the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) to Cairo as successful and positive. He added that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed satisfaction over the committee's report.

In an interview with the GULF NEWS AGENCY (WAKH) correspondent in Rabat, Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said that Egypt's decision to resume membership in the ICO will achieve Arab and Islamic unity. He pointed out that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told the committee that Egypt will commit itself to the ICO resolutions.

Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman noted that Egypt's return will strengthen the PLO and achieve cohesion among its factions. He added that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak has enabled the organisation to negotiate from a position of strength. "Now we can enter the world from its widest door owing to Egypt's stance beside us," he said.

On shifting the PLO political headquarters from Tunis to Cairo, Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said that the subject was not discussed yet. "It is too early for that," he added.

Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman went on to say that the PLO had gained Egyptian support. He added that the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians and rejected autonomy which is in violation to Camp David treaty.

There are elements in Eygpt which do not want Mubarak to support the PLO, he said. "We hope the elections in the middle of this year will bring us more support," he added.

Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue will take place by the middle of February and will be held without condition. The PLO hopes to have strong ties with Jordan to overcome all differences. The PLO is stronger than it was in Tripoli and it also have Egypt's support when it conducts dialogue with Jordan, he said.

Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman described the recent democratic measures in Jordan as a positive step.

Mr 'Arafat will leave for Mali and Mauritania to continue his African tour. Asked if Mr. 'Arafat found [it] difficult to reconcile his call to African states to cut their relations with Israel with his current tour of Africa, Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman said the PLO leader rejected an offer to visit the Ivory Coast and open a PLO bureau in Abidjan because of the African state intention to resume relations with Israel. He described this stand as a conclusive evidence that the organization is not only looking for recognation. This tour is also aimed at preventing Israeli penetration in Africa, he said.

On a proposal visit by 'Arafat to France, there is no contact in this response between France and the organization. France did not invest its good relations with the organization till now.

Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahman affirmed that Reagan's plan has ended.

'Arafat Continues Tour of African Countries

Visits Sudan After Morocco

JN011749 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has arrived in Sudan from Morocco. Last night, Abu 'Ammar met in Rabat with King Hassan II and discussed the positive results of the Islamic delegation's visit to Egypt. They also reviewed the general situation in light of the recent contacts that followed the fourth Islamic summit held in Casablanca, including the working agenda of the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King Hassan II. The two sides discussed the recent criminal attempt on Al-Aqsa Mosque which was carried out by Zionist terrorists.

Talks With Malian President

LD012141 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Bamako at noon today, reviewed with Malian President Moussa Traore Arab-African relations in general and Palestinian-Malian relations in particular, in addition to the development of the international political situation and their reflection on the Palestinian issue. On his arrival at Bamako airport, Yasir 'Arafat declared that the Palestinian Revolution is still waging its battles against the Israeli enemy and that these battles have increased the steadfastness and the belief of the Palestinian people in adhering to their just and legitimate right to their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

On his part, the Malian president expressed his country's backing and support for the PLO, pointing out that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights.

Meets UK MP's in Rabat

JN012128 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Bamako — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Bamako today for a 2-day visit within an African tour he began last week. 'Arafat said on arrival that the PLO is passing through a difficult phase as a result of its leaving Tripoli and its exposure to a tripartite aggression in the Middle East. He said that the PLO welcomed Egypt's rapprochement with the Arab world.

Before leaving Rabat for Bamako, 'Arafat held talks with a British House of Commons delegation on the Middle East situation, particularly Palestinian developments.

PLO Radio Reports Attack in Nabulus

JN011746 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland have attacked a Zionist military patrol in the city of Nabulus in the occupied West Bank. The attack, which was carried out with incendiary bombs, left many casualties among the patrol's personnel. Admitting the attack, a Zionist occupation forces spokesman said that military reinforcements were sent to clear the area. A curfew was also imposed on large parts of the city.

Other enemy forces searched the area in the hope of catching the perpetrators. The Zionist forces also arrested many Palestinian citizens for interrogation.

Briefs

AMF Loan to Somalia — Abu Dhabi, 1 Feb (WAKH) — Somalia is to receive $4.66 million according to an agreement signed here today with the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, AMF, to offset the deficit in its balance of payment. The loan, carrying a grace period of 18 months, is to be repaid within three years at equal half yearly installments with an interest rate ranging from 3.75 to 4.75 percent annually. This is the fourth loan granted by the 19-nation AMF, bringing the total amount to $53.34 million. [Summary][Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 1 Feb 84 GF]

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Visiting ROK Official

GF010936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Manama, 1 Feb (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Mr Chae Mun-sik, South Korean National Assembly speaker, who is currently visiting Manama.

The prime minister and the Korean official reviewed bilateral relations, the means to develop them further — especially in the economic and commercial fields — and issues that are of mutual interest.

The South Korean National Assembly speaker arrived in Bahrain early this morning on a visit that will last 2 days.

KUWAIT

UK Secretary Heseltine Concludes Visit

Crown Prince Receives Visitors

LD011128 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] His Highness, the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah this morning received at the prime minister's office the British secretary of state for defense, Michael Heseltine, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Kingdom, and the British ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

The deputy prime minister and foreign and information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, also met with the British secretary of state for defense at his office at the Bahraini Information Ministry. The meeting was attended by the ambassador from the State of Kuwait to the United Kingdom, Ghazi ar-Rayyis, and the United Kingdom's ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Michael Ramsey Melhuish.

Talks during the meetings dealt with bilateral relations and a number of other issues of common interest.

Heseltine Comments on Talks

LD011839 Kuwait KUNA in English 1412 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 1 [KUNA] — Official talks Wednesday between British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim as-Sabah centered on Gulf region issues. The two officials also discussed the Middle East developments and bilateral relations.

Heseltine arrived here late Tuesday for a three-day official visit to Kuwait following a visit to Saudi Arabia, the first Arab Gulf nation he visited since he came to office. Upon his arrival, Heseltine said he "is looking forward to helpful and constructive talks with Kuwaiti officials."

Commenting on his talks with Saudi officials, he said that no arms deal was concluded between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia, "but if the Saudi officials wish to come to Britain we will exert efforts to satisfy them," he added.

Prior to his departure from the Saudi Kingdom, Heseltine said that his talks with Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealt with "bilateral cooperation in the military fields." He said that their talks also included the Middle East problem and the Iraq-Iran war.

On the Palestinian cause, Heseltine expressed his country's conviction that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) should participate in any peace negotiations for the settlement of the Palestinian question. He called for reciprocal recognition between the PLO and Israel, saying that this will help solve the problem.

"Israel should make a complete change in its policy in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank", he added.

The British defence secretary said that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal briefed him on the latest developments in Lebanon, and indicated that Britain's participation in the Multinational Force [words indistinct] Beirut aims at assisting the Lebanese authorities to control all the Lebanese lands". He said that the British contingent is to remain in Beirut "until the condition in Beirut is improving."

Meanwhile, Heseltine warned of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, and added that Britain and Saudi Arabia have called on the world "to adopt a new step to end this war."

British Defense Official Departs

LD021021 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The British secretary of state for defense, Michael Heseltine, left the country this morning after a 3-day visit.

He was seen off at the airport by Defense Minister Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah; the army chief of General Staff, General 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim; under secretary at the Defense Ministry, 'Abd ar-Razzaq Yusuf al-Khamis; Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Kingdom Ghazi ar-Rayyis; and the British ambassador to Kuwait.

Crown Prince Comments on December Bombings

GF011210 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] His highness, the crown prince and premier, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah last night charged that the "misguided elements" responsible for the explosions in Kuwait last month were hoping that the Kuwaiti people would "change their stand."

"These elements and those who backed them believed that they would succeed in their plot. They forgot that the people, though small in number, possess great aspirations, ambitions and hopes," the crown prince said.

Shaykh Sa'd said the strength of the Kuwaiti people lay in the country's cohesion and internal solidity. He added: "Kuwait has chosen the road which it saw would be the most beneficial to our Arab and Islamic nation." History would record the heroic stands of the people which sprung from their sense of national duty, the premier said.

Speaking at a banquet in honor of the members of the recently-formed councils for Kuwait's governorates, Shaykh Sa'd said the formation of the councils was made following a lengthy and comprehensive study. The amiri decree on their establishment came from a conviction that it was in the general interest of all to expand the jurisdiction of governors and create councils to contribute to the supervision of the implementation of the state's general policy, and of the projects in each governorate. The premier expressed the hope that the council members would cooperate with government officials in studying and following up public complaints and find adequate solutions.

The death toll from last month's bombings in Kuwait rose to five with the death of Najib Sayid Ahmad ar-Rifa'i on Saturday, it was reported yesterday. A 25-year-old Kuwaiti, Ar-Rifa'i was seriously injured in the blast at the U.S. Embassy, while standing in a long queue of applicants for entry visas to the United States. Ar-Rifa'i died after 49 days in the hospital.

A total of 21 suspects have been rounded up and indicted in connection with the bombings. Their trial is due to start on February 11.

National Assembly To Study New Draft Law

GF011216 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Tougher penalties for ministers found guilty of crimes ranging from high treason to personal gain are proposed under a new draft law to go before Kuwait's National Assembly.

The draft is being tabled by five deputies and calls for the death penalty or life imprisonment and a fine of KD5,000 for high treason. This it describes as disloyalty to the amir, betrayal of the country, or any crime that harms the safety, independence or security of the country at home or abroad, or any crime that threatens the amiri regime, or any cooperation with the nation's enemies.

Other crimes punishable under the draft include increasing or reducing the price of goods, real estate or stocks and shares for personal gain, or for the gain of others; using personal rank and authority over any public authority, establishment or company; breaking laws which would cause a depletion in the nation s wealth, or misusing the nation's money; interfering in elections to influence the results; and taking any action that could influence a judge in his judgements.

The draft recommends that all such crimes should be dealt with under "the usual process of law". If found guilty, ministers would be discharged from their positions, deprived of political rights and refused admission to the assembly. The court could also deprive the minister of appointment to any public post, or membership in any parliamentary body. He could also be ordered to repay illegal gains, and the court could fix the amount to be paid.

Under the draft law, ten deputies would be required to make a written accusation against the minister before he could be charged, and they would have to substantiate their accusations. An assembly committee of five members would be formed to investigate the accusations and report to the speaker within one month.

Within fifteen days thereafter, the speaker would have to arrange a National Assembly session to discuss the report. The matter would then be passed to the chief justice. The sentence of the court would be final, there would be no appeal, and the case could only be reviewed in the light of new evidence.

ARAB TIMES Views Mubarak's Upcoming Visits

GF021030 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Feb 84 p 6

["Opinion" column by editor in chief Ahmad al-Jarallah; "Mubarak Visit Will Set Arabs on Right Road"]

[Text] Now that Iraq and Jordan have officially invited President Husni Mubarak to visit their countries, he should do so as quickly as possible. President Mubarak should not only visit Iraq and Jordan but also raise the Egyptian flag over the embassies of Egypt in these two countries. This will end the confusion between Egypt and Arab countries because the relations between them were not suspended, even though Egyptian embassies were closed in some Arab states.

We realize from the talks of West Germany's Chancellor Kohl with Israeli officials that the weakness of Arab diplomacy at international meetings is the reason for the Arab world's tragedy, its military inadequacy and the loss of its rights. Meanwhile, Israel is busy moulding world opinion in order to persuade people to support Israel against their own regimes.

But we Arabs are busy against each other. We even pay millions to the Palestinian cause so that an Arab regime can say it is doing more than others in solving the Palestinian question. Millions are paid out merely to say that Palestine belongs to the Arabs, though this has been known since 1948, or since the beginning of Jewish immigration to Palestine.

If these millions were spent at international meetings to enlighten people, the world would understand that Palestine is an Arab land and that Jewish claims are false. This would have put Chancellor Kohl in a better position, and instead of having to run from Israel like a rabbit he would have returned to his people knowing he was not guilty of Nazi atrocities and had no connection with previous wars. He would know that the atrocities committed by Israel are more tragic than those committed by Hitler.

The millions spent by Arab regimes are responsible for Arab differences and civil wars in the Arab world. The people are the victims. All this is the consequence of the desire of Arab leaders to prove that they will restore Palestine to its people. Many Arabs are killed and much Arab wealth is wasted for this purpose. All this has occurred because Arabs are living in a state of confusion.

We hope all this will end with the return of Egypt, because Egypt is experienced in international diplomacy and because it has proved to the world that it really wants peace. We are sure that the visit of President Mubarak to Baghdad and Amman will mark a return to the right road.

Paper on Activities of Israel Boycott Office
GF021036 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] The Israel Boycott Office in Kuwait yesterday blacklisted three movies, one firm and a book and lifted the ban on three other companies of different nationalities.

The office, citing such reasons as clandering the Arab nation and pro-Israeli propaganda, banned three movies: "Children of Rage," "Police" and "Height Hawks." The nationalities of the production companies were not released.

The American firm of Vishay Intertechnology Inc. and all its subsidiaries were blacklisted as the boycott office obtained evidence the firm has a branch in Israel.

A book entitled "Atlas of the Holocaust" was banned for containing pro-Israeli propaganda.

The office, however, lifted the ban on the American Del Monte Corp. and its parent company, R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc., and all its affiliates. The office said the parent company confirmed it had cut off all links with Israel.

Also removed from the blacklist was the Indian company of Ravi Chem Dye which presented official documents proving it has stopped dealings with the Jewish state.

Ranks Hovis McDougall Ltd of Britain was no longer banned as the company and its two British branches — RHM Exports Ltd, and RHM Foods Ltd — presented evidence denying having any businesses with Israel.

PDRY

Lebanese Communist Official Departs Aden
GF011852 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother Nabil 'Abd as-Samad, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], left Aden this evening after a visit to the PDRY which lasted several days.

During his visit he held a series of talks with several party and state leaders on the latest developments in the situation in the Lebanese arena, bilateral relations, and the situation in the Arab arena in general. In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he said that during these talks the current developments in the Lebanese arena, the resistance of the Israeli occupation forces, and the U.S. forces' interference in Lebanon were reviewed. He said that during these talks he felt the PDRY's principled, solid, and supportive stand toward the Lebanese people's struggle — and its just cause — and the Lebanese National Movement in its struggle against foreign interference.

He was seen off by Brother 'Ali (Sh'ir Hadir), candidate member of the Political Bureau; the chairman of the high committee for party control; Brother 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative in Aden; and many officials of the Central Committee Secretariat.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince 'Abdallah Critical of U.S. Mideast Role
LD012042 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] On Sunday, 29 January, the deputy prime minister, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, received a U.S. delegation led by the former ambassador, Mr John West, which is now on a visit to the Kingdom.

His royal highness welcomed the members of the delegation and wished them a pleasant stay in this friendly country. He reviewed with them various aspects of the situation in the Middle East region and particularly the role of the United States in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Iraq-Iran war.

With his usual frankness, his royal highness began his address by saying:

"Your friend is one who is sincere to you, and not one who agrees with everything you say. From this premise, I do not comprehend the role being performed by the American Marines in Lebanon. Why should a great power such as the United States send its fleet and 2,000 of its troops to Lebanon. Should they intervene, their intervention would arouse the condemnation of all, as an intervention by a great power. Should their mission fail, the prestige of the United States would suffer."

His highness added that everyone is aware of the true reasons for the presence of the Multinational Force. Lebanon is an independent country and is recognized as a member of the United Nations. Its territories have been violated by the aggressor invaders, who killed its women before the men, and its children before the aged. They destroyed the villages and towns over the heads of their occupants. If these fleets and American forces came to repel the aggressor and force him to withdraw, and to punish him, then the arrival of these fleets and forces would have been welcomed. But for these huge forces to come to protect certain individuals or to implement a policy based on incorrect advice, then this is a sheer shame.

The deputy prime minister also spoke about the pressures on the administration of President Reagan to withdraw the Marines from Beirut. He said withdrawal from Lebanon of all the

invading Israeli forces along with the U.S. forces must be accomplished as soon as possible, and that the Syrian forces will withdraw from Lebanon after that. There is no doubt whatsoever that this will be accomplished, and afterward Lebanon will be able to join hands in a national comprehensive unity.

His highness then spoke about U.S.-Israeli relations. He condemned the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel. His highness wondered if the United States really believes that Israel is capable of standing up to the Soviet Union in the region. He added there is no doubt that there are other undeclared designs behind this agreement, but we know that they are directed against the interests of the Arab nation.

The deputy prime minister said it is a sin that the Palestinian people should be left scattered throughout the world, suffering from severe winters and hot summers, with their children being killed and tortured without the world's conscience making a move. The United States is capable of helping to find a peaceful solution. President Reagan's plan could be accpetable if it contained the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. His highness asked those present: "Do any of you agree to be deprived of the right to determine your own destiny and to have that right left in the hands of others?

His highness added that the Arab nation is now experiencing various divisions and differences, but these differences will disappear one day, sooner or later. Afterward, it will be difficult to accept any peaceful solution whatsoever. His highness said we must resort to reason and not emotion or propaganda. He urged those present to convey the true picture to the American people and the officials there, underlining the common interests and the need to preserve them, because the interest of America and the Western states in this region is in the hands of the Arab nation, and the United States must take this into consideration.

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, the deputy prime minister said that this war is harming everyone, adding that Iraq has proven its sincere intention to end the war, while Iran is still refusing this. He expressed his conviction that the United States has the capability, and if this were used Iran would agree to stop the war and accept a peaceful solution. He urged the United States to pressure its friends — and particularly Israel — to stop the shipment of spare parts to Iran, which did not cease even when Iran was holding the American Embassy staff in Tehran hostage.

At the end of the meeting — which lasted about 1.5 hours — the members of the delegation thanked his highness for the frank talk and the penetrating analysis of the issues of common interest.

King Fahd Set To Leave for France 4 Feb
LD012028 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1737 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Feb (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will begin an official visit to France next Saturday. Here is the text of the statement issued by the Royal Court about his majesty's visit:

According to the invitation which His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has received from President Francois Mitterrand, the president of the French Republic, his majesty will — God willing — begin a visit to France on Saturday, 4 February 1984.

May God preserve his majesty in his travel and visit.

New Security Force To Be Established
GF011158 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] A new security force is to be set up in Saudi Arabia to protect vital installations. It will be issued with the latest equipment to protect oil, electricity and water plants.

Colonel Dr 'Abdallah ad-Daham has been chosen to head the new force.

Papers Comment on British Weapons Offer
GF020542 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Feb 84

[From press review]

[Text] The newspapers *AR-RIYAD* and *'UKAZ* today commented on the Saudi-British military talks:

AR-RIYAD said that the offer made by Britain — which is for the Kingdom to choose what it requires from all the advanced weapons which Britain has — indicates that Britain respects the realm of mutual interests between it and the Kingdom. It also added that no one in the world ignores the fact that the Kingdom has always been and will continue to be free to possess what it requires of modern and advanced weapons, and that it is always fully prepared to pay the price of what it purchases. The paper also said that the kingdom does not acquire arms in order to build up an aggressive power, but rather to build a defensive power so as to secure its sky, soil, and waters.

The newspaper *'UKAZ* stressed that Britain would not have made this step were it not completely convinced that the Kingdom represents a principal factor in maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East region. The paper also said that were it not for its firm conviction about the importance and essence of the role played by the Kingdom in this region, Britain would not have made such an offer.

YAR

President Salih Receives Fatah's Salah Khalaf
GF011842 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received tonight Brother Salah Khalaf — alias Abu Iyad — Fatah Central Committee member, who is currently visiting the republic.

During the meeting, struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions were discussed in addition to the current developments in the Arab arena.

Brother Abu Iyad briefed the brother president, commander, and general secretary on the recent developments in the Palestinian revolution arena and expressed his deep gratitude for the stable and principled stances of our country in supporting the Palestinian cause.

The brother president commander reaffirmed our country's principled stance on its support for the fraternal Palestinian people's resistance and their heroic struggle to liberate their usurped territories and establish an independent state on their national land, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. He also affirmed the desire of our country for the unity of the PLO.

The meeting was attended by Brother Hikmat Zayt, the PLO representative in San'a'.

KUNA: Mubarak Reportedly To Visit Morocco 6 Feb

LD011625 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Rabat 1 Feb (KUNA) — It has been reported here today that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will begin an official visit to Morocco next Tuesday, the first visit by an Egyptian president since Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel in 1979. An Arab diplomatic source informed KUNA that President Mubarak will visit Morocco following the conclusion of his current African tour.

The source said that President Mubarak sent a message to the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, with the Islamic committee delegation which recently visited Cairo to officially invite Egypt to return to the ICO.

The source said that President Mubarak's message to King Hassan II, who is chairman of the current ICO session, confirmed "his country's commitment to the Islamic organization's charter and the resolutions adopted in its summits, including the past summit."

He added that Mubarak also confirmed Egypt's readiness "to work toward the preservation of the legitimate Palestinian rights."

Mubarak To Meet Iraqi, Jordanian Leaders

NC021152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1139 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, 2 Feb (MENA) — The Paris-based Arabic language magazine *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* reports it has learned that President Husni Mubarak will hold a mini summit with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordan's King Husayn following his return from his current African tour.

The magazine says agreement on these meetings was reached during the intensified contacts that took place among Cairo, Baghdad, and Amman in the past few days.

In tomorrow's edition, the magazine mentions that one idea now under study is to invite PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to these meetings, for which neither a date nor venue have yet been set.

Cabinet Reviews Recent International Contacts

NC012007 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpt] During today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din stressed that President Mubarak's current tour of several African states reflects the close brotherly relations which unite Egypt and the African countries as well as their constructive cooperation in all domains. That is what Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, has stated.

Ash-Sharif added that the prime minister also reviewed the outcome of the visit paid by the ICO committee under Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and the talks which that committee held with President Husni Mubarak. The prime minister stressed that while Egypt has resumed its role in the ICO, it had never relinquished its role at any point in its history.

The prime minister also reviewed the developments in the Palestinian issue, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The Cabinet then discussed the outcome of the Nonaligned Information Ministers' Conference recently held in Jakarta. Ash-Sharif said Egypt played a remarkable role at this conference and was elected to the conference's vice presidency. Egypt was also elected to a 3-year membership of the Nonaligned Information Coordination Council.

The Cabinet also reviewed the outcome of the recent visit which Field Marshal 'Abd al-Hali Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, paid to Khartoum.

'Arafat 'Expected' At Pro-Palestinian Conference

PM011045 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 Jan 84 p 4

[Unattributed report: "International Conference in Support of Palestinian People"]

[Text] An international conference will be held in Egypt for the first time since 1971, when the fifth AAPSO conference convened. The conference, to be held on 11 March, will be in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It is being convened under the auspices of the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

Invitations have been sent to a large number of personalities in Western and Eastern Europe as well as the United States, and to all Afro-Asian solidarity committees and international and Arab trade unions.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a number of Palestinian leaders are expected to attend.

Kreisky, Waldheim, Melina Mercouri, Vanessa Redgrave, Eric Rouleau, and U Thant are among the personalities invited.

The conference will be held in Cairo in the Arab League building's main conference hall.

Trial of Communist Group Postponed After Opening

NC012035 Paris AFP in English 2025 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, Feb 1 (AFP) — The trial of 16 alleged members of the "Armed Communist Organization," uncovered last August, opened today here but was immediately postponed to March 3. Defense lawyers said in a preliminary statement that the charges against the suspects were entirely fabricated to give an excuse to the government to continue the state of urgency imposed in 1981 after the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat.

Spokesman Warns of Attack on Iran After 6 Feb

JN021216 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

If then anyone transgresses the prohibition against you, transgress ye likewise against him. [Koranic verse]

A military spokesman has stated the following:

1. Despite our repeated warnings to the Iranian regime against the consequences of its aggressions and its shelling of our peaceful cities, the Iranian regime continues to indulge in its transgression. On more than one occasion during the past 10 days it has shelled Basra, Az-Zubayr, Ash-Shihabi, Zurbatiyah, Mandali, Khanaqin, Sayyid Sadiq, Khurmal, and (Shandari), damaging our civilian installations, causing the martyrdom of children, women, and civilians, and wounding many others.

2. To protect our people and cities and out of our legitimate right to defend ourselves, we have decided to strike at chosen targets in the following Iranian locations after 6 February 1984: Dezful, Shush, Andimeshk, Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Ilam, and Abadan.

3. Because we fear that our missiles and the bombs from our planes will fall on Iranian citizens and to avert harm to Iranian citizens, we call on them to move away from the referent cities. He who warns is excused. 2 February 1984.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,359

JN011740 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,359 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 1 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave sons and Armed Forces are continuing their valiant battles against the Iranian forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our naval forces this morning engaged a number of hostile naval targets in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf. Some of these targets were heading for Bandar-e Khomeyni port and others were leaving that port. Our naval units and daring Air Force planes attacked the enemy targets, dealing them strong, effective blows. Between 0807 and 0940 today, our forces destroyed three enemy naval targets and forced the others to flee in disarray. In the wake of the battle, the enemy tried to salvage what it could of the naval targets by sending a number of its planes and helicopters to the area. However, the enemy could not save them: Its attempts met with abject failure. The enemy left its destroyed targets to sink into the Gulf waters in flames. All our naval units and planes returned safely and successfully to their bases, thanks be to God.

2. In the area east of Basra, our forces sighted an enemy concentration opposite our forward positions. Our forces opened fire, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, and destroying one tank and one medium-size machine gun.

3. One of our forward units opened fire at a number of enemy soldiers opposite its positions in the central sector of the front killing five of them, forcing the others to flee, and destroying one infantry position.

4. The criminal Iranian rulers today used heavy artillery in a bestial, barbarous shelling of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, and their environs. As a result of the shelling, 2 children and 1 woman were martyred, 15 persons were wounded, and 1 house was destroyed in Basra; 1 woman martyred and another wounded in Khanaqin; and a number of gardens were damaged in Mandali and Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 February 1984

U.S.'s Richard Murphy Meets Tariq 'Aziz in Baghdad

JN012025 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South Asian affairs. They reviewed the current situation in the region, bilateral relations, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by 'Ismat Kittani and Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, under secretaries at the Foreign Ministry; and on the U.S. side by the delegation accompanying the U.S. official.

Richard Murphy arrived here at noon today.

King Husayn Leaves for London, U.S. 1 Feb

JN011220 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn today left Amman for London on his way to the United States to complete his medical tests at a specialized center. His majesty is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, a number of the Hashemite family members, the prime minister, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the deputy prime minister and minister of interior, the ministers, senior civilian and military officials, and the ambassadors of the United Kingdom and the United States in Amman.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent before His Majesty King Husayn and the cabinet staff during his majesty's absence from the homeland.

The chief of chamberlain accompanied their majesties.

Amman TV Carries Husayn's 31 Jan NBC Interview

JN010941 Amman Television Service in English 2017 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Interview with King Husayn by NBC television network correspondent Tom Brokaw, date not given — videorecorded]

[Text] [Brokaw] King Husayn of Jordan is a key player for peace in the Middle East, and, he has consented to be interviewed by "Nightly News" today. Your Majesty, thank you very much for coming in today to agree to this interview.

[Husayn] Thank you very much. It is a pleasure.

[Brokaw] Your Majesty, American Marines were under attack once again today at the Beirut Airport. That will only raise the pressure in this country to bring them home. What would happen if President Reagan were to withdraw the Marines from Lebanon?

[Husayn] I believe that a very serious situation would arise. I believe, on the other hand, that the objectives were worthy, are worthy, for the presence of those who are trying to see withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, an independent state exercising its sovereignty over its territory and the unity of its people. If these objectives are defined once again, I believe that any attempt to secure them is certainly worthwhile.

[Brokaw] But the Marines have been there for more than a year now, and to most American observers there are no real signs that any progress has been made toward peace in Lebanon. Can you offer any real signs?

[Husayn] I can only say that the emphasis must be on the withdrawal — unconditional withdrawal — of all foreign forces from Lebanon. The presence of the peace-keeping forces should be linked to that, and linked also to the need for the Lebanese to sit together and reconcile their differences, both past, present, and possible future ones. On the other hand, these tragic incidents and attempts are obvious, as far as I am concerned, to be aimed at causing the situation to alter and people to think again in terms of what these objectives are. And I think any premature moves could be very dangerous and devastating in point of fact.

[Brokaw] As you know, a number of analysts believe that these tasks have been inspired by the Syrians, because they hope that the Marines will pull out of Lebanon and that they will be able to control that country. Is that a fair analysis?

[Husayn] I can say that opponents of progress along the lines of securing the objectives as outlined are playing a waiting game and they are applying pressure as well.

[Brokaw] Over the weekend you called for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon. Why hasn't there been more pressure on Syria to get out of that country?

[Husayn] When we last met in Fes a long time ago at the beginning of 1982, end of '82-beginning of '83, the (?projection) was that withdrawals would occur simultaneously. And, in point of fact, the forecast was that an Israeli withdrawal would occur before the end of '82. But unfortunately, this hasn't happened so far. And I think that this has contributed to the worsening situation there.

[Brokaw] I think what puzzles many Americans, however, is that the Arab states were outspoken about the presence of the Israelis and not nearly as public in their condemnation of the Syrians. Wouldn't that be helpful in terms of the world view of the Arab state of mind?

[Husayn] As far as we are concerned, we are very very clear that all foreign forces should be withdrawn, including the Syrians. We have been for that for a long period of time.

[Brokaw] In the not too distant future, you are scheduled to meet with Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization. How do you see this role in the Middle East now?

[Husayn] I hope very much indeed that his role would be a constructive one, that he will derive his strength from his constituency, the Palestinian one, and voice their opinions, hopes, aspirations in a realistic manner. And we are certainly placing as our topmost priority an attempt to organize our Palestinian-Jordanian approach to the problem in the best interest of the people of Palestine and for the securing of peace, just peace, in the area. We'll have to wait and see how things develop and evolve, but we are going to give it our best effort.

[Brokaw] Would you agree, however, that if 'Arafat would take a highly visible role in that Jordanian-PLO peace effort, that it would make the Israelis resist that effort, because he is such a controversial figure in their eyes?

[Husayn] The concept is to evolve a Jordanian-Palestinian balanced relationship, a concept of the future relations between the two, and to enable us to move forward, both within the Arab world and the world arena, in the best possible way to secure the establishment of a just and durable peace. And I dont see why any should object to that.

[Brokaw] Will you invite 'Arafat to establish a base in Jordan?

[Husayn] I havent met 'Arafat since he left Lebanon, left Tripoli, recently. And, obviously, that depends on our talks. We are really going to address them very frankly and in great depth. And we'll see what happens after that.

[Brokaw] In this country experts on the Middle East within this administration are encouraged by many of the steps that you are taking, including the reconvening of the Jordanian Parliament that included representatives from the West Bank. Could you foresee the possibility of talks with Israel at the most preliminary kind of level about what will happen now on the West Bank if Israel continues to settle there?

[Husayn] If Israel continues to settle there, I see no hope for any possible progress toward the establishment of peace. Each settlement, each act, including unfortunately something like what happened in the Al-Aqsa Mosque a couple of days ago, which is repetition of attacks on holy places, which gives us the impression that Israel is unable to ensure the security of these places — all these are very serious obstacles on the path of peace. And I dont see how we could progress if this is to continue towards the meeting and dialogue with the help of all concerned for the establishment of peace in the area.

[Brokaw] At the same time, however, both former Prime Minister Begin and his successor, Prime Minister Shamir, have said quite strongly and flatly that the settlements on the West Bank will continue and continue to expand.

[Husayn] Well, that is where we hope that the rest of the world will weigh in the interest of all in the area, including Israel, in the long run. The occupation of territory is unacceptable and the formula for peace is the recovery of these territories in return for peace. This is the only way out and it was outlined in Security Council Resolution 242 so many years ago.

[Brokaw] Your Majesty, how do you answer the Israeli charges that if you're so interested in a Palestinian state in the West Bank you could have established one prior to 1967 when you controlled that terrtory?

[Husayn] The unity of both banks before I took my constitutional powers in 1953 was very, very clear that this unity did not jeopardize in any form or way the rights of Palestinians in a final, ultimate settlement. This is the answer to that question, and certainly the issue was not one of the West Bank alone. There are Palestinian rights that have to be addressed as well.

[Brokaw] I presume, Your Majesty, that you obliged the United States to put more pressure on Israel to forestall any expansion of the settlements in the West Bank. As you know, this is a domestic election year in this country that becomes a particularly sensitive issue during presidential campaigns. Does that mean you have decided in your own mind realistically that very little can be done until after the elections in November?

[Husayn] I have not come to any conclusion. I know of the President's commitment to the cause of peace in this area. On the other hand, in the face of very serious developments on the ground in the occupied territories, in terms of, for example, the Israeli actions to attempt to resettle people into the Jordan valley as probably a first step towards moving them out of it; on the other hand, trying to apply Israeli land laws, which are tantamount to annexation, together with other facts as well, had to move and our primary objective, obviously, to organize ourselves Palestinians and Jordanians alike. After all, the Israelis have tried to suggest that the Palestinian problem is a problem of people, not of land, and the problem is of the people and their rights on their land. And we're trying to get ourselves organized, Jordanians and Palestinians alike, to look at every option and to move in the best way towards our objective to which we are committed: the establishment of a just and durable peace.

[Brokaw] Along the same lines, the President has proposed another $220 million for your country for the development of a Jordanian rapid deployment force to be used as you see fit as your described it in a weekend news conference. At the same time, it is fairly clear that if Israel has major objections to that, that it could bring Congress into the argument in this country, that they may not approve the appropriation of the $220 million. Are you prepared publicly to say that you will not use that rapid deployment force or that money in an offensive against Israel?

[Husayn] The whole idea is not to create a new force. If Jordan is asked to help in the area, members of its Armed Forces would respond whether we receive help from the United States or otherwise. And we have done that time and again in the past.

We are committed to stability and security in this entire area. It so happens it would appear that the United States feels that it has a common [word indistinct] objectives with us in this particular regard. So, any help that might come would come and would be designed to enhance our ability to respond to our brethren in need, should the need arise, should we be asked to help. And over this issue, I'm hopeful that Washington will make up its mind. I certainly am not talking with the Israelis or addressing them in this particular regard. I am confident that the decisions will be made by the United States in its own best national interest.

[Brokaw] Are you prepared to give that pledge to the United States that you will not use this money in any fashion against Israel?

[Husayn] I'm only prepared to say that we have a record which has been extremely clean in terms of the use of any equipment that we have received and in terms of the terms of our agreements with those who supplied this equipment in the past and in terms of material [words indistinct].

[Brokaw] The establishment of some kind of stability and peace in the Middle East, as we have all learned painfully over the years, Your Majesty, is a very slow, step-by-step process. Obviously, you are attempting to solidify the moderate Arab elements within your part of the world by bringing Egypt back in the fold. What do you think the chances are for success that you'll get a change in the constitution so that agreements between Arab states can be made by majority rule and not by consensus?

[Husayn] I believe that this is bound to happen. It's not going to be easy to achieve it, but when we speak of the credibility of others, we have suffered, we have been paralyzed and unable to move over many years over many vital issues affecting the entire Arab world. And this can't go on much longer. The need to reorganize is there in terms of the Arab League and in terms of the Arab summits so that the majority can formulate policies and act in a manner that is in the best interest of the Arab World. I really believe that this feeling is shared by the majority, and I hope that before too long we'll see some results.

[Brokaw] Your Majesty, you are coming to this country before too long for some medical treatment. We trust that it is not a serious problem and that you won't be incapacitated.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed. My doctors have suggested that I must make this trip very shortly just to complete the tests and investigations. And I hope that will be all right. I am fine now and I'll be coming to the United States soon. I look forward to that.

[Brokaw] But there is nothing ominous on the horizon in terms of your medical condition so far you know at this time.

[Husayn] As far as I know, no.

[Brokaw] You Majesty, thank you very much for taking this time to be with us today.

[Husayn] Thank you very, very much indeed. It's been a pleasure.

AD-DUSTUR on Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

JN020931 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* has learned that the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the kinfolk's steadfastness has been formed under Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, and includes Dr Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade, and Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories.

The joint committee will meet next week. The most prominent item on the agenda is the payment of the Arab countries' share into the steadfastness fund and the review of the committee's achievements and working plans.

In another development, the Palestinian side to the joint committee held a prolonged meeting yesterday to prepare for the joint committee's expanded meeting. Thos who attended were: Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad; PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Hamid Abu Sittah, and Dr Hanna Nasir; Brigadier 'Abd ar-Razzak al-Yahya; and Hamad al-'Aydi, chief of the occupied territory affairs department.

Trade Minister Returns From Baghdad

JN012150 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Trade Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani returned from Baghdad tonight after his talks with Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi and other officials regarding cooperation in the economic field. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent, Dr al-'Anani described the Jordanian delegation's visit to Baghdad as fruitful. He said: During a whole working day of consultations and talks we discussed several issues related to the exchange of items and oil materials as well as the possibility of exporting Iraqi crude oil to the Jordanian oil refinery.

He added: I met with senior Iraqi officials, foremost of whom was Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister. I conveyed to his excellency an oral message from Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat dealing with bilateral relations.

Australian Foreign Minister Begins Visit

JN011640 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden and his wife arrived in Amman this evening for a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior officials. He will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on recent Middle East developments, peace efforts, and bilateral relations.

An official delegation including the deputy under secretary and the assistant under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Australian ambassador in Amman, and a number of Australian Foreign Ministry officials are accompanying Hayden on his visit to Jordan, which comes within his tour of a number of the region's countries.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Jordanian ambassador to Australia, the directors of political and international relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Australian Embassy staff in Amman received him at the airport.

Al-Masri, Hayden Speeches

JN020815 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through abiding by the following three international principles: 1) nonacquistion of land by force; 20 recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights; 3) the right of all countries in the region to live in peace within recognized borders. In a speech delivered during an evening banquet he hosted yesterday in honor of Australian Foreign Minister Willian Hayden, his wife, and his delegation, Al-Masri added that Jordan has

stressed this view through its firm stand from the beginning, by its acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, its adherence to the Fes summit resolutions, and its response to the Reagan peace plan.

Al-Masri asserted that achieving peace and saving the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories are in the first rank of priorities toward Jordan which will continue its efforts to achieve. Al-Masri added: Hence, there is a need to continue cooperation and coordination between Jordan and the PLO to reach a joint formula of action in order to achieve fruitful and constructive results.

Foreign Minister Hayden in a reply speech praised His Majesty King Husayn's political initiatives, especially the return of political and parliamentary life to Jordan. He also praised the wisdon and efforts of the Jordanian leadership to solve the complicated problems in the region, which have caused pain and tribulation to many innocent people, especially the Palestinian people.

Hayden said: Settlement of the Middle East conflict can be achieved only through recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He added that his country's government has expressed the conviction that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories constitutes a big obstacle to peace efforts and is contrary to international law.

New Names Given to H-4, H-5 Towns

JN020936 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Al-Fafraq — In an exclusive statement to *AR-RA'Y*, Al-Mafraq district officer 'Izz ad-Din al-Gharayibah said that, in accordance with the system of administrative divisions, the Council of Ministers has decided that the town H-4 will be renamed "Ar-Ruwayshid." The town H-5 will be renamed "As-Safawi."

Cabinet Briefed on Political, Security Situation
NC011437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Dispatch by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic today briefed the Cabinet at the beginning of its session on the general political situation and the dangers facing the homeland, despite the role brothers and friends are playing in aiding Lebanon. Lebanon will emerge victorious and united from this ordeal by virtue of the people's steadfastness and sacrifices and the leadership's solidarity.

The prime minister then reviewed the outcome of the intensive contacts which have taken place and are taking place with the various parties on the local, Arab, and international levels. These contacts have been and are being initiated so that everyone remains informed about the efforts, positions, and developments as part of each one's role in assisting Lebanon to emerge from its present crisis and tragedy, to steer the homeland away from the danger confronting it, and to spare the area of a spread of this danger.

The Cabinet was also briefed on the efforts which have thus far been made to expedite the security plan's implementation in light of the new developments which, it is hoped, will lead to a resolution of the problems and obstacles — obstacles which have thus far hindered its implementation. The government regards this plan as a basic step on the way to salvation and a prelude to political solutions that the government is seeking to achieve Lebanon's supreme interests and to save the homeland.

The Cabinet then discussed the security situation and the efforts being made on the local and foreign levels to establish suitable security conditions in Beirut and the various areas, despite the occasional security setbacks.

The discussion then dealt with the issue of the kidnapped and the help given the International Red Cross Committee in the performance of its humanitarian mission. The Cabinet also discussed what has actually been done in this respect. The Red Cross has informed the families of the kidnapped who were visited by the Red Cross and whose names were submitted by the parties concerned.

The Cabinet was then briefed about the political and diplomatic contacts being undertaken by Foreign Minister Salim in Italy and the Vatican, and the results of the contacts in Syria with the U.S. and Saudi envoys on the Lebanese issue.

The Cabinet formed a committee to study the economic and financial situation with a view to accelerating public services and finding means to reduce the budget deficit and increase the national revenue. The committee is composed of Ministers Elie Salim, Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, Ibrahim Halawah, and George Afram as well as the governor of the Bank of Lebanon, the chairman of the Development and Construction Council, and the chairman of the National Council for External Economic Relations.

Finally, the Cabinet discussed the topics on its agenda and made appropriate decisions regarding them.

Salim Returns From Italy Visit 1 February
NC011423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim arrived at Beirut Airport at 1545 today from Italy. He went immediately from his airplane to a Lebanese Army helicopter, which took him to the Presidential Palace. Minister Salim did not make a statement.

Salim Inquires About Saudi Statement on Marines
NC021217 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told Radio Free Lebanon that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has contacted Saudi Ambassador in Beirut Ahmad al-Kuhaymi inquiring about a statement attributed to Prince 'Abdallah, the Saudi crown prince, calling for the Marines' withdrawal from Beirut.

The sources said Ambassador al-Kuhaymi has cabled his government inquiring about this. The sources said that Al-Kuhaymi will convey the Saudi response to Minister Salim tonight and that Prince 'Abdallah will clarify the statement attributed to him in a statement to the media.

The diplomatic sources do not expect the Saudi Embassy to release a statement on this because the full text of Prince 'Abdallah's statement is not available to it.

Franjiyah, Karami Due in Damascus 6 February
JN011442 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Informed sources in Damascus said today that Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, members of the Lebanese National Salvation Front, will arrive in Damascus next Monday.

PSP Radio Director On Station's Establishment, Aims
NC011711 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Statement by Ghazi al-'Aridi, director general of the "Voice of the Mountain" radio — live or recorded]

[Text] Why have we established the Voice of the Mountain? Ever since we started to formulate the very basic plans of our radio, which immediately crystallized after the mountain war, many people have inevitably asked about the aims and implications of this step. We have heard many ideas from the man in the street and in parties, halls, political institutions, clubs, and many other forums. In short — and as a matter of fact — the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] could have established a radio station approximately 7 years ago. However, it did not undertake such

a project, not because of any shortcomings, but because its leadership was wagering on the legal authority to restore the unity of Lebanon and its institutions through the closure of the private information organizations which have contributed to inflaming the civil war, and to develop its media into a national, guiding, and balanced institution and not an injudicious, destructive, and murderous one.

Despite all of the difficulties we faced and the pressure that was exerted upon us, we held to our bet. However, we must now say so with regret for the following reasons:

Because the legal authority proved that it is neither true to itself nor legitimate, but instead maintains the law of the jungle in which criminal murderers roam freely;

Because Lebanon has been afflicted by the rule of the fascist Phalange;

Because this regime has destroyed valiant Beirut in the same way Israel has, and has antagonized its citizens and people;

Because the regime has beseiged the city of heroism and capital of the Arabs, revolutionaries, and strugglers, and imposed a curfew and restricted freedom of movement there;

Because the regime has smothered liberties throughout Lebanon, which is the source of freedom;

Because its men have dominated and monopolized the official information media; imposed restrictions on newsmen; killed the true word, which rejects murder and crime; abolished a free, democratic press; threatened journalists; suspended certain newspapers for not supporting the policy of the head of the regime; and prevented the press from highlighting the problems of the people, such as those of the kidnapped, detained, and strugglers in the mountain, the Al-Kharrub region, Beirut's southern suburb, and in the south;

Because the regime of the Phalange and its collaborators at home and abroad have prevented talk about the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, and prevented the press from carrying any comment on them and even raising them as a humanitarian issue;

Because it has kept silent on the massacres of Al-Karantina, Sibnay, Harat al-Ghawarinah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Ad-Dubayyah, An-Nab'ah, Burj Hammud, Tall az-Za'tar, and Salima; participated in several of them, including the Kafr Matta, 'Bayh, Al-Binnay, Bi'warta, and 'Ayn Ksur massacres; and only acted on the murder of the daughter of Bashir al-Jumayyil, who had led and bore the responsibility of all those massacres;

Because the souls of those people are dear and precious, because they are human, and because we maintain that the aim, in the final analysis, is mankind;

Because the Phalange has besieged the minds of the Christians residing in the areas under its hegemony, imposed taxes on them, and prevented them from expressing their views and from even hearing any opinion other than that of the Phalange, as it did with the Christians in the mountain by causing their displacement and begging for money on their behalf while they were looking for food — no one dared speak because the rifle was pointed at his head and the car bomb was waiting for him;

Because the regime, its factional army, and the Phalange gangs have destroyed the mountain; burned it; killed its people; besieged it; kidnapped the innocent; tortured the women; killed the children; insulted the old people; burned down the places of worship; disrupted relations between the people of the mountain and those of the Al-Kharrub; and above all besieged it on the informational, political, economic, and social levels; distorted the truth; and claimed to be innocent;

Because Beirut's southern suburb is still besieged, suffering from shelling and destruction, while its people suffer unbearable psychological and political pressures;

Because the regime has not acted to bring back the thousands of kidnapped and detained;

Because it participated in the kidnapping and detention of others;

Because it has done nothing to bring about the release of 1,500 kidnapped people held in the cellars of the Phalangist War Council and the Defense Ministry;

Because it has prevented the mothers of the kidnapped from calling for the release of their sons and disregarded all local and international calls to tackle an issue that pertains to human rights, because they lack humanity;

Because the factional privileges policy and policy of domination have ignored the north and Al-Biqa', apart from Zahlah, and most of the patriotic [Druze] and Islamic villages;

Because the factional regime has abandoned the south and handed it to Israel, and has not paid attention to its people for the past 40 years — those people who paid a dear price by clinging to their dignity, history, and land, which is part of the [Bashir al-Jumayyil] slogan of 10,458 sq km [representing the whole of Lebanon];

Because the regime is preventing any talk on the issue of the south as a national issue;

Because poverty and starvation are prevalent in all Lebanese areas, prices continue to rise, and no one dares speak up under the regime of dictators and middlemen;

Because the head of the Phalangist regime is preparing for a new military adventure against our people, brothers, kinsmen, and citizens, and against our land and dignity;

Because our battle with this regime is long and continues.

For all of these reasons, it was necessary to have the Voice of the Mountain, the voice of right and truth; the displaced; the kidnapped; the poor; the southerner and the south; Beirut; the suburb and its fighters; the north and the Al-Biqa'; the Al-Kharrub region; the teacher and student; the woman and the girl;

sisters and mothers; children; youths; workers; Christian and Muslim patriots; and the free will.

The Voice of the Mountain is the voice of man, the land, ethics and principles, honor and heroism, fighting and struggle, heroes, and Walid Junblatt.

The Voice of the Mountain is the voice of the continuing battle for the sake of right and the homeland. It is the voice of the martyrs and the grand martyr — the voice of Kamal Junblatt, his roaring voice heralding a better and bright future — and the voice of the free man and happy people.

More Reportage on Security Developments

Army Mountain Positions Shelled

NC011752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Security sources report that violent clashes with various types of weapons broke out at noon today on the axes of Ash-Shiyah and Old Sidon Road, accompanied by mortar shelling between Ash-Shuwayfat and Kafr Shima. Simultaneously, Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under concentrated artillery fire throughout the day that more or less subsided at approximately 1630.

However, Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, 'Ayn Ksur, and Tallat Husayn have received concentrated artillery fire since 1730, and Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh also came under artillery fire at 1830.

A security source reported that clashes resumed today on the Ash-Shiyah-Old Sidon Road axes at 1500, resulting in the wounding of one person.

More Junblatt Forces to Front

NC011756 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] According to information from Damascus, Walid Junblatt has put his gunmen on a state of maximum alert and sent additional forces, supported by heavy weapons, to the lines of confrontation with the Lebanese Army.

Junblattist, Syrian Shelling

NC011800 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] While relative calm prevailed this afternoon, the Junblattists and Syrians suddenly started shelling the central Al-Matn and other residential quarters. Since early this evening projectiles have been falling on Brummana, Wadi Shahrur, Bulaybil, Humal, Al-Jumhur, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hazimiyah, and Lebanese Army positions at Dahr al-Wahsh.

Casualties Reported in Shelling

NC011920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] A security source reported that the shelling of the Mar Taqla area in Al-Hazimiyah has caused a number of casualties. It has been learned that among those killed are retired Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas Nasif, who was in Mar Taqla Square when he was killed, Yolla Salim Na'ra, and a third unidentified person. The source said that the shelling of Al-Hazimiyah and Jisr al-Basha is continuing intermittently.

The source said the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, 'Ayn Ksur, Tallat Hunayn, and Dahr al-Wahsh have received artillery fire since 1730 today.

Army Casualties Reported

NC012016 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] One soldier has been martyred and another wounded as a result of the shelling of Army positions.

Security sources reported that the areas of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Sinn al-Fil, Ad-Dikwanah, Mukallis, the Salome Circle, and the television station perimeter in Al-Hazimiyah are still receiving artillery and rocket fire. Several fires have broken out as a result of this shelling.

Shells landed a short while ago on the Kasrawan coast, in Jumhur, Al-Luwayzah, and As-Silaf, Ad-Dikwanah, where Khalil Zaydan was wounded.

The security sources reported that Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur have been coming under anti-tank fire since 2130 today.

Army Positions Under Fire

NC020818 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Security sources report that Army positions in Monte Verde [in Beirut] have been coming under artillery fire since 0850 this morning. There was sniper fire earlier on the Al-Matahin and Al-Barid axes in Beirut's southern suburb.

At 0735 an Internal Security Forces' expert defused a 25-kg TNT explosive device packed in a suitcase found in the Al-Mtani Street area.

Beirut Arms Cache Discovered

NC021229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Sniper fire opened up in the Al-Matahin and Al-Barid axes in Ash-Shiyah at 0700 today. The fighting expanded to the mountain area and Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur received rocket fire at 1015. Army positions in Monte Verde came under artillery fire from Ra's al-Matn. No casualties were reported.

In addition, an arms cache was discovered this morning on Barbur Street near the Hawwa movie theater [in Beirut]. A security source informed us that the quantity of explosives, ammunition, and weapons discovered is estimated at three truckloads.

Beirut Shelling; Army Attacked

NC021210 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1202 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Telephone dispatch from the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY's editorial room — live]

[Text] A security source informed us a short while ago that a shell fell on Camille Sham'un Boulevard and two others in Ad-Dikwanah [Beirut area].

The Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh are being shelled from positions in Duhur al-'Abbadiyah. The Army is retaliating with a concentrated shelling of the sources of fire during which some vehicles have been destroyed.

IDF Position Reportedly to Haddad's Forces

NC021022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the movement of Israeli vehicles and heavy armored cars has been recorded along the Masgharah-Jazzin-Kafr Fallus road since last night. It has been learned that the Israeli forces have withdrawn from the Maydun position between Mashgharah and Jazzin. Dozens oftanks and vehicles were seen parked in Kafr Falus. There have been reports that Israel may have handed over the above-mentioned position to the forces of Sa'd Haddad.

VOL Reports Syrian, Israeli Armored Movements

NC020657 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Information received by the Voice of Lebanon says 100 Syrian armored vehicles towing field artillery and rocket launchers were deployed along a line extending from Dahr al-Baydar to Ru'aysat Sawfar at 0600 today.

Israeli armored vehicles were seen moving this morning in Jabb Jannin, Al-Mansurah, and 'Ammiq. Warplanes overflew the same area.

VOL Claims Libyan Armored Battalion in Mountain

NC020713 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] A Libyan armored battalion arrived yesterday in Dahr al-Baydar from Ash-Shaykh Ahmad Hammud plantation near Qubb Ilyas. Military sources said it comprised many T-54 tanks and other armored vehicles. However, according to the same military sources, this force failed to achieve its goals because it received successive and concentrated attacks, which confused it and foiled its aim.

Al-Asad Criticizes U.S. Policy on Lebanon

JN011733 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1245 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden. Attending the meeting were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Australian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, talks dealt with the situation in the region and developments in the Lebanese arena. During their discussion, the president asserted that Lebanon is a fraternal Arab country; that Syria wants to see it a strong, independent Arab state with a strong central government; and that Syria will not allow Lebanon to become an Israeli protectorate.

The president also touched on the danger of Israel's expansion and said: Israel continues its expansionist plan to establish agreater Israel, and this is the danger to the region and the security, safety, rights, and lands of the region's countries.

He also touched on the U.S. position and military involvement and said: The United States cannot militarily determine the situation in this region. The U.S. Administration alone, not other sides, should be responsible for its mistakes.

The president also said: The United States has two options: first, to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and end its military involvement; or second, to increase its interference in Lebanese domestic affairs and military involvement. He added: We have only one option: to defend oursleves.

The president also said: We have tried to talk to the Americans frankly and seriously to reach logical and reasonable solutions, but we have found that their proposals always contradict our pan-Arab and national interests and agree with Israel's interests and that President Reagan is more concerned with the gun than with principle.

Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden left Damascus this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Syria. He was seen off by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Richard Murphy Leaves Damascus 1 February

JN011438 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] U.S. endeavors to solve the Lebanese situation have not achieved any tangible results. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy ended his talks with Syrian officials and left Damascus at noon today without any results being leaked on the talks except what the Syrian newspaper *AL-BA'TH* described as U.S. aggressive preparations against the Arab region in general and the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' in particular.

Radio, Papers Continue Comments on U.S. Stand

AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN on Lebanon

JN011050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting in its "Opinion" column *AL-BA'TH* says: The security situation in Lebanon has reached a dangerous stage that gives precedence to the Lebanese issue over the region's other issues despite the interconnection and entanglement of these events. The military escalation against positions of the nationalist forces in the suburbs and mountains is labeled as dangerous for many reasons even if it did came as no surprise. The most prominent of these reasons may be the talk of possibile storming operations supported and planned by Pentagon circles. Although the participation of Marine forces in this military escalation carried out by the Phalangist militia in a direct way is not a new development, just as is President Reagan's assertion that his forces will stay in the waters and on the soil of Lebanon, the plan behind the escalation and the security situation eruption is what draws the attention of observers and raises questions.

AL-BA'TH adds: In his statement about the continued Marine presence in Lebanon, President Reagan returned to the peace tune, as did his special envoy Rumsfeld. Here we must ask what peace were they talking about while the guns of the battleships and the Phalangists were shelling civilian areas populated by defenseless inhabitants whether in the suburb or the mountain. What peace were they talking about while the frantic activity between Washington and the Camp David regimes was directed at the deployment of RDF forces in the area to include Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. Based on this, we see on the horizon signs of military action that might not be limited to a storming attempt of the suburbs and mountains but would spread to take over the Syrian positions in Lebanon, especially since the leaders of the Zionist military establishment have mounted their direct and clear threats against our steadfast country that is defending Arab dignity. This anticipated military action may be the beginning that Reagan has chosen for his election campaign, a beginning that is required to stress the path of might, and at the same time give the client regimes that are rushing to the tables of the imperialists a reason to hasten to the doors of Camp David. *AL-BA'TH concludes: Our alert masses who are lying in wait* for any possibile aggression are capable of facing the fleets and battleships and will not allow the American umbrella of domination to spread. They proved this in the distant and near past. They are able to teach the aggressors the right lesson at the right time.

TISHRIN calls for learning lessons and discusses President Reagan's refusal to set a date for withdrawing his forces from Lebanon and his statement that their presence in Lebanon is not connected to the U.S. presidential election or to any other political reasons. The paper states: Whoever looks closely at what Reagan said will undoubtedly clearly see that he is deter

mined to continue the policy of interference in the affairs of an independent country, changing it into a protectorate for his country or a base for aggression against Syria and extending complete American domination over the Arab region.

It is not surprising that the American President has adopted this position. Despite Reagan's denial of a connection between the insistence on a continued military presence in Lebanon and the presidential election or any other political considerations, the truth of the matter is that Reagan is gambling on being able to carry out the program of strategic military deployment and intervention which could help to determine his political future. There are also other considerations more important than personal ones. They are connected with U.S. policy and U.S. capabilities and strength, not only in our Arab region, but in the world at large. Here we must recall what President Reagan said when he revealed his intention to continue the policy of tyranny and aggression and to spread the climate of war in our region. He declared clearly and frankly that he will withdraw his forces from Lebanon only if American aims are realized, or if Lebanon collapses completely.

TISHRIN adds: Consequently, we do not want to lose this opportunity to predict the effects of President Reagan's actions. He may resort to violating all laws and norms to achieve his aims, be it by ignoring the mounting calls in Congress for the withdrawal of U.S. forces, sidestepping the law on the power to declare war that was passed recently in the United States, or further challenging the laws, norms, and principles of dealings between countries. Even if achieving his aims is a risk and a gamble for Reagan, it is easier than for it to be said that his policy in Lebanon and the Arab region has met with utter failure.

The withdrawal of forces — and this is a serious matter — will not only confirm that his political opponents were correct, but will also mean in general the failure of the policy of escalating aggression and the neutralization of American campaigns of occupation and invasion. This is what the American decisionmakers will not accept, those decisionmakers who work behind the scenes, employing their economic power and political influence.

TISHRIN concludes: So far it is not clear whether there is even a slight possibility that President Reagan will change his position. But there are grounds that warrant looking again into the presence of American forces on Lebanese soil, especially in view of the difficulties, obstacles, dangers, and catastrophies they suffered during the past few months. Will President Reagan calmly consider the incidents to which his forces were subjected in that period? Maybe there is hope for learning lessons even for agitated and irritated people like President Reagan. But it is important to make him see this hope.

TISHRIN Urges Marines' Withdrawal

PM011639 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 28 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

['Amid Khuli article: "Free Involvement"]

[Excerpts] We had assumed and hoped that the U.S. Administration would benefit from its experience in the Lebanese crisis and would deal with the effective forces and parties on the basis of that experience acquired over years of crisis.

We had assumed and hoped that the U.S. Administration would realize one thing for certain: that military escalation and obstinacy do not lead to any political or regional gains, nor do they yield positive results. Of necessity, they lead to more involvement and more risks which in turn lead to more bloody violence with incalculable results and eventually to a dead-end.

A military solution in Lebanon has been and will continue to be impossible. The United States may have realized this fact long ago when it was compelled to consider Suq al-Gharb as part of its national security. Any insistence on settling the issue now would only take the situation back to its explosive beginning, which would be difficult for the United States to control. When the situation gets out of hand, the United States will realize it cannot control it. In other words, such insistence would be an exercise in foolishness which does not become the United States as a superpower, unless the United States wants to set Lebanon completely on fire to provide sufficient justification for more military involvement and provide an American legal cover for the deaths of the Marines in Lebanon. Otherwise, why does it insist on turning the Marines into a completely partial local side standing against all the other sides and into a force of aggression against the Lebanese people in every legal and military sense, a force in league with the Phalangist militia against all Lebanon?

If the United States has opted for military escalation in Lebanon to prevent a national solution and obstruct implementation of the security plan there — this would be more an electioneering decision that a political decision; it would be void of any logic or reason, and its aim would be to intimidate and pressure U.S. opposition into supporting Reagan's involvement — then the Reagan administration should be honest with itself. It should at least be honest with the American people in its efforts to find adquate justification for the death of the Marines in a battle that is not theirs and on territory that is not theirs, some 13,000 km from their national borders, in the service not of U.S. interests but of Israeli and Phalangist interests directly.

Once again we say that escalation and involvement are a dangerous leap forward. They will not produce any solutions but will definitely expand the circle of death and bloodshed and result in a free-for-all in which we would defend ourselves well, far better than they expect, because the cause is our cause.

The only alternative, or rather the only condition, is that the United States abandon this escape route and end this election mania which now illogically governs U.S. decisionmaking. The only condition for a solution in Lebanon is unconditional withdrawal of the Marines so that the Lebanese people can determine their own fate. This should be coupled with abrogation of the agreement of submission to ensure the withdrawal of the Zionist invaders without any political or security gains. They would then discover that there are no problems in Lebanon, whether among the Lebanese people or between them and Syria. There is absolutely no other solution. Any U.S. arrogance or obstinacy will only lead to unpredictable and serious consequences.

Radio Refutes Terrorism Charge

JN011523 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. entanglement and military involvement in Lebanon have become major factors in U.S. domestic political life and the presidential election campaign. It is now very difficult for U.S. President Reagan to find anybody to defend U.S. military involvement in Lebanon or the U.S. political and diplomatic failure that characterizes the U.S. Administration's moves and plans in that Arab country.

Contrary to President Reagan, there is a semi-consensus among the U.S. presidential candidates calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon, although some of them call for certain political and diplomatic arrangements, taking into account that achieving any military success against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces has become impossible.

The U.S. President can find no justification for keeping the U.S. forces in Lebanon other than claiming that withdrawal will constitute submission to terrorism that some countries encourage. In this regard, President Reagan has previously mentioned Syria, the Soviet Union, Libya, and Iran, trying to persuade U.S. public opinion that there is justification for keeping the U.S. Marines in Lebanon and that the Marines' mission can be adopted and defended.

The Reagan administration has failed to present any proof, evidence, of context for the existence of any Syrian involvement in the explosion that took place in the headquarters of the Marines near the Beirut airport. Despite Syria's denial of any involvement in that incident, and despite the world's awareness that Syria does not shirk responsibility for or hide any of its actions — a fact that was proved when the Syrian forces confronted the aggressive, provocative U.S. planes — the U.S. Administration, in defending its abortive policy, is trying to implicate Syria in the alleged terrorist actions in Lebanon.

Recently, some false information was leaked to a U.S. paper claiming the existence of Syrian involvement in the explosions at the headquarters of the U.S. and French forces in Beirut. Leaking such false information falls within the feverish U.S. attempts to present a false picture of the situation in Lebanon and the U.S. forces' mission there to U.S. public opinion, which fears the prospect of a new Vietnam and urges the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Lebanon.

Also, it is ridiculous for the Reagan administration to talk about combatting terrorism at a time when it is leading and encouraging the ugliest form of terrorism all over the world. To terrorize by nuclear war and nuclear annihilation is a favorite policy of the U.S. Administration against peoples. U.S. terrorism is not a terrorism of individuals or underground organizations; it is terrorism that is planned and supported by the state. Were it not for the United States, Israel would never have been able to practice the policy of terrorism by using or threatening to use force, and would have never been able to turn terrorism into a policy of the state to commit genocide against the Palestinian Arab people. Were it not for U.S. support, the fascist regimes in Central and South America would never have been able to practice their bloody, brutal terrorism against peoples and their liberation forces; and were it not for U.S. support, the mercenaries would never have tried to attack Cuba from the Bay of Pigs. Also, Honduras would have never been turned into a center for terrorists and mercenaries who practice terrorism against Nicaragua.

Those who support and encourage terrorism and make it state policy are the last ones who have the right to talk about terrorism. The United States, which supports racist, fascist regimes such as Israel, South Africa, and others all over the world, is the last one to have the right to claim that it combats terrorism. The U.S. Administration's attempts to exercise propaganda and psychological pressure on Syria will not help to ease tension or create a proper climate for a constructive and fruitful dialogue. Syria cannot be blackmailed.

AL-BA'TH Editorial on Terrorism

PM021108 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 27 Jan 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Has Reagan Forgotten He Is Fighting a Losing Battle?"]

[Text] Terrorism is the pretext used continuously and permanently by the United States to make war, violate peoples' sovereignty, and take the world to the brink of total collapse. It is under this pretext that Reagan rejects unity and security for Lebanon. Under the pretext of fighting terrorists, the U.S. Administration has officially allied itself with the most stark terrorism manifested by Israel, South Africa, and the Phalangist militia in Lebanon.

In a major speech and during what was described as a serious debate, Reagan told Congress that the U.S. Marines will remain in Beirut because their task is to combat terrorism. The President of the biggest imperialist state considers the Lebanese people's defense of their territory and honor to be a form of terrorism, just as he considers the Palestinian people's resistance against the usurpers of their national soil to be a form of terrorism.

Reagan, however, was unable to conceal the truth. He did not deny that Israel's security requires U.S. assistance and that this security can be ensured only if the Israelis can be spared the daily killing on Lebanese territory at the hands of the people of southern Lebanon.

To give himself an excuse for spilling more Lebanese blood, Reagan has decided that a declared war is the best way of helping Israel and punishing the Lebanese people for their patriotism.

U.S. Secretary George Shultz admits that Lebanon is not the real issue and that the matter transcends Lebanon to wider horizons related to confrontation with Syria because of the latter's close relations with the Soviet Union. So Reagan speaks in advance of an inevitable war, and his secretary of state names Syria as the target in that war. The reason and pretext given by both is to combat terrorism before it strikes and expands.

The U.S. Administration does not consider the presence of its forces on foreign territory to be a kind of terrorism, nor does it consider the Lebanese children, women, and elderly people killed by its shells to be victims of its terrorist designs. It considers the killing of a Zionist soldier to be an act of terrorism but it does not see Israel's occupation of Arab territory to be a violation of international law and charters.

The question is: What makes the Reagan administration go so far in its encroachment on Arab rights and in its hostility to the Arabs? The answer can be found with those who have subjected their decisions to U.S. interests, placed their wealth in U.S. hands, and used the RDF as the protector of their thrones and palaces. The answer can be found with Yasir 'Arafat, who has destroyed a people's revolution to save the regional security alliance under the leadership of Egypt's Camp David regime.

Despite the large-scale U.S. political and military mobilization and the numerous fronts and parties enlisted by the United States in support of its battle against Syria and the Lebanese people, does Reagan not realize that he is fighting a losing battle in which destruction will not be confined to the other side? If, as Reagan expects, the battle develops into a war between the two giants, Syria will not be standing alone in the face of destruction and extinction. Reagan's battle is with the people of the United States, who will not be safe from Reagan's terrorism and his onslaught against the security and peace of mankind.

TISHRIN Denies Softened Position

PM011644 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 27 Jan 84 p 8

[Mustafa al-Faqir article: "Syrian Intransigence"]

[Excerpts] Syria has nothing to offer the Americans and their allies and agents in the region and never will have anything to offer them. Those who think that the release of the U.S. pilot denoted a "softening" of the Syrian stand are undoubtedly deluding themselves because that was only a humanitarian gesture in response to an appeal by the American people.

President Reagan and his administration should have seized the opportunity to make a comprehensive review of Washington's aggression policy in light of the U.S. people's opposition to U.S. involvement in Lebanon. What we see today, however, confirms that the U.S. Administration is determined to pursue a course of escalated aggression and misleading information. Reagan has renewed his old pretexts of "Syrian intransigence" and "Soviet presence" to justify the continued deployment of the Marines and their participation in the fighting against the Lebanese nationalist forces alongside the Phlangist army and militia. Meanwhile, Shamir has again been harping on the tune of a "Syrian-Soviet threat" to Israel's security. The U.S. and Israeli sides have held a series of military and political meetings within the context of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance. Their discussion centered on means of countering the "Syrian deterrent."

The plot continues, and so does Syria's determination to confront it. In fact, Syria is facing a twofold plot covering Lebanon and Palestine. Reagan has instructed his agents to work for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause, and some Palestinian leaders have dropped their masks and thrown themselves into the laps of Mubarak, Husayn, and Saddam to boost this liquidation scheme.

After all this, the Americans want Syria to "soften" its stand or, in other words, to leave the 17 May agreement alone.

As we have already said, Syria has nothing to offer the Americans and their agents, especially where Arab sovereignty, territory, rights, and future are concerned. If this Syrian position is seen as "intransigent," then Syria is intransigent and will continue to be very much so. Unlike the U.S. and NATO forces, "intransigent" Syria stands on its own territory and in its own region, which means it has the means and ability to confront any aggression planned by the United States and Israel. As admitted by the various news agencies, U.S. involvement will not give the Reagan administration, the American people, or the U.S. and Israeli agents in Lebanon and the region any advantage.

The only way to settle the Lebanese crisis is through national dialogue with moves by the regime to dissociate itself from U.S. and Israeli designs, abrogate the 17 May agreement, and get rid of the Multinational Force, which has taken sides and is fighting the Lebanese people.

Washington will never be able to achieve a miracle for those who bank on it. Washington does not even want to achieve such a miracle because it is more concerned with fulfilling Israel's objectives and designs which are in direct conflict with Lebanon's aspirations to sovereignty, independence, and national unity.

AL-BA'TH on European Role

JN020922 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-BA'TH* comments on Syria's firm stand toward the capitulatory schemes that were brought by the U.S. envoys to the region and on Syria's sound and scientific understanding of the meaning of peace. The paper says: Since the arrival of the first U.S. envoy to Syria in wake of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Syria's stand has been clear. Syria has put forth what it wants and rejected all the conditions which may harm Lebanon's independence or restrict its sovereignty. Syria has also put forth its concept of peace in the region, which is facing many dangers as a result of the Zionist aggression backed by the United States. Syria has also reiterated that it supports a just peace that must safeguard Arab rights in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and in any Arab country.

Syria's firm stand has foiled all the capitulatory schemes that have been brought by the U.S. envoys. Neither U.S. diplomacy nor U.S. military concentrations, which are threatening Syria, have succeeded in forcing it to accept the capitulatory solutions.

The paper deals with the revival of the European role in the Arab region, stressing that this role must begin in Washington and not in the Arab homeland, saying: The Europeans realize very well that Syria, which has been adopting a firm stand on this region's issues, is the one that has foiled Washington's schemes. They also

know that the threats being posed to this region have Washington as their source. The Europeans have evinced their anxiety over these threats. This anxiety urged the Europeans to carry out a new diplomatic moves after they became certain of the failure of the U.S. steps on the military and political level in the Arab region, especially since Europe has vital interests in this region which it wants to protect.

The Europeans must understand Syria's stand very well and realize that it will not go back on this stand unless Arab rights are safeguarded. Any dialogue with Syria will be useless if it does not guarantee Arab rights. If the Europeans want a role in establishing peace in the Arab region, they must address themselves to Washington, it being their strategic ally, to convince it to retract its conspiratorial role against the Arabs and their interests. The United States, given the fact that it is the cause of tension in the region, is fully responsible for the region's instability.

The Europeans must understand that peace in the Arab region can never be established so long as U.S. forces continue to be present on Arab land, brandish the threat of aggression, and provide assistance to the Israeli forces which are committing aggression against the Arabs.

The peace which the United States seeks to impose on the Arab by force is a rejected peace. Syria has reiterated this rejection and has also reiterated its determination to confront any eventual aggression against it or against its security.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria supports any peace concept or any European initiative that is based on justice. If Europe wants to assume such a role, it has to convince the United States and put pressure on it to make it change its stand that is hostile to the Arabs. If Europe is capable of doing such a thing, it must begin with Washington and not with the region.

Our stand and cause are clear. We are not the ones who committed aggression and we do not want to commit aggression against anyone. The United States is on our land. All that we want from it is to move away from our just rights.

TISHRIN on Husayn's U.S. Visit

JN020846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "King Husayn Has Started the Process of Negotiations," *TISHRIN* says: King Husayn has begun practical steps to enter into negotiations on a settlement in accordance with Reagan's plan, which has been rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The Jordanian king has started his working trip to Washington although the organs of his regime insist the trip is being made for medical reasons. Reports confirm that the king has left for Washington with the purpose of completing consultations with the White House on details of the regime that will hold negotiations on the Palestinians' behalf and put the final touches on the plan concerning the formation of the Jordanian rapid deployment force whose mission will be to protect U.S. interests in the region and implement the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

Many indications substantiate the Jordanian king's working program in Washington, foremost being the suspect 'Arafatist moves in Amman, Baghdad, and Cairo, the latest being the meeting held by 'Arafat's clique in Amman to coordinate the topics that will be discussed in wake of the king's return from Washington. One can confirm that King Husayn has begun the process of bypassing the PLO after paving the way on the domestic level by reconvening his dissolved Parliament and by winning the support of agent parties in the Palestinian arena, represented by Yasir 'Arafat and his clique, and some of the traitors in the occupied territories.

TISHRIN wonders: Will the Jordanian king succeed in implementing the U.S. settlement schemes and achieving his dreams of establishing a united kingdom?

TISHRIN says: All indications are that this time too the king will not succeed in fulfilling his dreams. The United States, more than anyone else, knows that neither King Husayn nor Yasir 'Arafat can define the final lines of the Palestinian people's cause because it is a struggle for existence and not one of fulfilling ambitions and because it is a cause of a people and not of individuals. The Palestinian resistance factions which have exposed 'Arafat's moves and the suspect moves by Amman can this time too foil the Husayn-'Arafat scheme because they derive their strength from their legitimate representation of the Palestinian Arab people and from their strategic alliance with Syria, the bastion of Arab steadfastness.

Shamir Comments on Economy, TAMI, Other Issues

TA011459 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir revealed yesterday that during the no-confidence debate last week he was advised to remove TAMI from the coalition and he was reminded of the "brilliant maneuver" that brought down the Yitzhaq Rabin government. Shamir asked those who gave him this advice: "Do you want to bring down the government?"

(Rabin's government was toppled in 1977 when the Sabbath was desecrated following a reception marking the arrival in Israel of the first F-15 planes. The National Religious Party [NRP] abstained in the no-confidence vote and Prime Minister Rabin demanded the resignation of the NRP ministers from the government.)

Shamir explained yesterday that there is no reason to consider removing TAMI from the government: "The agreements reached with TAMI do not run counter to the principles of the Likud and the coalition."

Shamir revealed another secret when he was approached on the TAMI issue: The resignation of Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat from the government was delayed at Shamir's request until after the no-confidence vote in the Knesset to allow the government to safely win the vote.

When asked to react to the harsh criticism by opposition Chairman Shim'on Peres during the no-confidence debate, the prime minister said: "Peres's statement was made out of frustration at not being able to topple the government. However, this is his job and I have no complaints against him."

Shamir was asked whether he fears the coalition will fall and he replied: "The problem today is the economic situation. This issue is at the top of our agenda. I have the feeling that we are doing what is necessary to resolve this issue; perhaps more should be done, and faster, but there are various constraints we have to take into account. I hope that in the near future the public will see that we are taking a more positive path. Indeed, there is as yet no solution to the difficulties but I have no doubt that our direction is positive."

The prime minister has also directed Finance Minister Yiga'el Kohen-Orgad "not to seem too optimistic, even if the situation is better. You must be careful not to get carried away with too much optimism." At the same time, Shamir criticized the tendency in various quarters "to paint almost every issue black, when the truth is that not everything is black."

Shamir also said that he is holding meetings with the ministers and discussing with them the problems of their offices. One of the issues he has dealt with lately is housing for new immigrants, a subject much criticized lately. These talks were attended by the ministers of housing, finance, and absorption. "We examined the figure, viewed the extent of the problem, and discussed solutions. It appears that there are achievements as well as difficult problems vis-a-vis the absorption of new immigrants. However, these difficulties are not the result of the government's policy, and we are now working to solve them."

Opposes Early Elections Move

TA020535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has again made clear that he will fight the opposition's campaign for early elections. Shamir said that there were signs that the trade deficit would be cut by $1 billion this year. He told the association of Americans and Canadians in Israel that the government was coping with the economic crisis. This is not mission impossible, he said, but more time was needed.

[Begin Shamir recording] We think that elections now will disrupt the process of the recovery of our economy; we need some time for it. Let me say frankly, we are certainly not afraid to face the electorate, we can appear before them with an impressive record of achievements in many areas. [end recording]

Shamir said that he has begun meetings with the ministers of finance, absorption and housing to help solve the problems of new immigrants.

Supports Settlement Policy Continuation

TA020846 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by the Knesset correspondent]

[Text] Replying to an interpellation by MK 'Aqiva Nof, the prime minister said that the Israeli Government does not know about a promise given by President Reagan to the Jordanian Government that the United States would bring about a freeze on the establishment of settlements.

Shamir said that the Israeli Government's position was known. Israel would continue to establish settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, and it would not accept any precondition whatsoever for opening negotiations with Jordan.

The prime minister added that the Israeli Government does not accept the ideas raised by President Reagan in his speech of 1 September 1982 about certain solutions for the political future of the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as a negotiable issue between Israel and the pertinent parties.

Shamir, Kohen-Orgad Popularity Decreasing

TA011229 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 84 p 1

[Dahaf poll]

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by Dr Mina Tzemah of the Dahaf Institute and published by the weekly *KOTERET RASHIT* shows that the popularity of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Finance Minister Yiga'el Kohen-Orgad has decreased in the last few days.

According to the *KOTERET RASHIT* poll, 10 percent of the population believes that Yitzhaq Shamir's performance as prime minister is very good, as opposed to 14 percent less than 2 months ago; 51 percent believe that his performance is good, as opposed to 58 percent in November; 26 percent believe that his performance is not good, as opposed to 16 percent in November; and 10 percent believe that his performance is bad as opposed to 5 percent in November.

In short, the positive public appreciation for Shamir has dropped from 72 to 61 percent, and the negative side has increased from 21 to 35 percent.

KOTERET RASHIT also reports that today there is an equal amount of positive and negative opinion for Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad. Some 48 percent believe that his performance is good or very good, as opposed to 63 percent in November; and 47 percent believe that his performance is not good or even bad, as opposed to 26 percent in November.

Coalition Defeated in Motion on Hebron Market

TA011512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The coalition again suffered a defeat in the Knesset in a vote dealing with the establishment of a Jewish community [qirya] in the Hebron vegetable market.

By a majority of 2 votes — 48 against 46 — it was decided to debate the issue in the Knesset plenum rather than strike the motion from the agenda, as the Likud wanted.

MK Mordekhay Ben-Porat, who resigned from the Cabinet last week, abstained; and Dror Zeigerman voted with the opposition.

Our Knesset correspondent reports that the Likud and the coalition are furious with members who were absent from the Knesset at the time of the vote.

Likud whip Pinhas Goldstein strongly criticized Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, who was absent from the Knesset, and MK's Yoram Aridor, Mikha'el Deqel, Avraham Melamed, Menahem Porush, and Minister Burg who were scattered like ashes in the wind, as the whip put it.

Begin Calls for Elections in Herut Secretariat

TA020623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin has instructed the chairman of the Herut Central Committee to prepare elections for a new chairman of the party secretariat. Begin is the chairman of the Herut party executive.

The executive has not met for several months and therefore has not chosen a successor to former party secretariat chairman Yoram Aridor. Aridor resigned from the post last fall. The move by Begin is seem by some as a return to political life on his part.

United States Drops Conditions for Economic Aid

TA011225 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Washington — The U.S. Administration's suggestion to make economic aid to Israel conditional on Israel taking certain steps to improve its economy has been dropped, since the U.S. Administration fears that this would be interpreted as an attempt to topple the present Israeli Government.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned from reliable sources that top-level officials in the U.S. Administration have lately considered the possibility of making certain demands on Israel as a condition for increasing economic aid. The demands which were mentioned were purely economic and did not include sensitive political issues, such as stopping the allotment for settlements.

The suggestion was raised due to the U.S. Administration's concern over Israel's economic situation. The U.S. Administration claims that Israel is at a critical point in its economic development, and the Administration is seeking ways to influence Israel to change its policy. The U.S. Administration's assessment is that the responsibility lies largely with the Israeli Government, among other things because most of the economy is under its control. The suggestion to put conditions on increasing the aid was discussed by the U.S. Administration against this background. The U.S. Administration claims that the Israeli Government must make a substantial cut in its budget, and restore balance in the wage and price systems. Washington assesses that the steps taken up to now are in the right direction, but they are not sufficiently strong and comprehensive.

The suggestion to make aid conditional on certain demands was finally dropped since the U.S. Administration feared that this would be interpreted as intervention on its part to bring about a change of governments in Israel. Behind this approach stood the argument that the steps which the U.S. Administration recommends entail hardships for the Israeli public and could endanger the existence of the government.

Instead of these measures, the U.S. Administration has decided to pressure the government more subtly, by giving advice and activating Congress. The U.S. Administration is willing to give Israel a grant of $850 million in 1985. It is expected that Congress will increase this sum (Israel is asking for $1.3 billion). However, the U.S. Administration has used its influence in Congress to have its members express concern about the way Israel runs its economy. Even if Congress increases the aid, it would do so while expressing great concern about the economic situation in Israel. The U.S. Administration differentiates between generous security aid to guarantee Israel's military needs (and this explains its willingness to respond to Israel's requests in the military field), and purely economic aid. The U.S. Administration claims that Israel's requests for economic aid (an increase from $910 million this year to $1.3 billion in 1985) reflects faulty management of the economy rather than objective needs which justify the increase in U.S. aid. Congress will today start the debate on Israel's economy in connection with the allotment of U.S. aid.

HA'ARETZ Criticizes U.S. Stratagems on Lebanon

TA311022 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Jan 84 p 9

[Commentary from Washington by 'Uzi Benziman: "Taking Israel's Name in Vain"]

[Text] Over the past few days there has been an escalating trend in the U.S. Administration, one that has been noticeable in the past and which is now creating a sensitive problem for Israel: The White House and its spokesmen are using Israel's name to block Congressional opposition to the Marines' continued service in Lebanon. Over the last few weeks, administration spokesman — including President Reagan himself — have made claims that bind Israel's name with U.S. policy in Lebanon. Using various tones, the administration spokesmen have claimed that U.S. policy in Lebanon is firmly connected with the traditional approach aimed at guaranteeing the welfare and security of the State of Israel. Reagan spoke about this in his speech on the Lebanese issue. Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam repeated this in his evidence to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and other officials leaked the message to the media.

In a calculated way, the administration has tried to give the U.S. public and Congress the impression that its policy in Lebanon is coordinated with Israel, serves Israel's interests, and has its support. In order to guarantee the credibility of its claim, the administration has examined Israel's reaction to this presentation of its position. It even asked for Israel's aid in blocking Congressional moves to disrupt its policy and shorten the Marines' stay in Beirut. Last week, when the confrontation increased between the administration and Congress over the duration of the Marines' presence in Beirut, the White House and its branches expanded their claim.

Last Thursday, 26 January, Richard Murphy, the head of the Middle East section of the State Department, appeared before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, and this is what he told it: Getting the Marines out would increase the danger of confrontation between Israel and Syria.... We are involved in Lebanon because this conflict is affecting Israel's security.... Israel and our Arab friends are begging us not to withdraw or decrease the Marines' presence. Israel and these countries have explained to us that a U.S. collapse in Lebanon would seriously weaken our influence and that of the moderate countries that expect us to support them.

Murphy emphasized that the appeals to the United States came on the initiative of the countries themselves and were not coordinated by the administration. Egypt has given Murphy's claim almost official support. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* correspondent reported from Cairo that the Egyptian authorities asked the United States not to pull the Marines out of Lebanon. Egypt explained this position — according to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* — by the fear that a pullout of the Marines now would create chaos within Lebanon and decrease the chances of establishing a broad peace arrangement in the Middle East, with U.S. mediation. Murphy may be in possession of evidence that this is also the position of other Arab countries. (The countries the administration considers to be moderate include Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Iraq and most of the Persian Gulf states.)

Israel, in any event, has not followed in Egypt's footsteps, and has not announced any appeals by it to the United States not to withdraw the Marines. On the contrary, an examination has shown that Murphy's remarks embarrassed Israel and do not reflect Israeli positions. According to Israeli spokesmen in Wash ington, Israel has not appealed to the United States — either recently or previously — and begged it to leave its forces in Lebanon. The day before yesterday, public, official confirmation of this was given by the spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in the U.S. capital. This position completely contradicts Murphy's evidence to the Senate [as published] subcommittee on foreign relations.

As for the second U.S. claim — that a withdrawal of the Marines would have a bad affect on Israel's security — on this the Israeli reaction is more complicated, and it is not being reported in public. It is clear to everyone that the Marines' pullout, without the Lebanese Army and Government having succeeded in consolidating their status and imposing their rule, would cause severe shocks inside the country. This development can even be regarded as a sort of increase in the security burden on Israel. This is because, in the absence of a central administration and in the heat of the civil war that would certainly develop in the wake of a rushed pullout of the Marines, violence would increase in Lebanon. As a result of this, IDF forces in that country could be confronted with a greater danger. From this aspect, the administration has some grounds when it puts this claim forward.

In fact, even now the security of Israel's northern border, like the security of the IDF forces in Lebanon, are not in the slightest affected by the presence of the U.S. Marines at Beirut airport. Israel is not encouraging the United States to leave Lebanon and it does not deny the two countries' common interest in the Al-Jumayyil government's stability, but this does not mean that both countries have identical positions on this matter.

While the primary U.S. purpose in Lebanon is to guarantee the stability of its government, most of Israel's interests lie in the security of its northern border. The link between establishing a credible government in Lebanon and creating security conditions on Israel's northern border is only indirect in the current situation and the predicted future situation inLebanon. Israel will rely mainly on its strength and the arrangements under its supervision to guarantee its northern border. The existence of a central government in Lebanon is a purely secondary matter in this context.

Hiding behind this Israeli position are internal trends and contradictions that will obviously float to the surface in the next few months. On the basis of the understanding achieved between Shamir and Reagan, both countries must coordinate their moves in Lebanon. Even if Israel wants to continue its withdrawal from that country right now, it must work in such a way as not to arouse anger in Washington. It was no coincidence that Richard Murphy said last week that from the U.S. Administration's viewpoint, an Israeli withdrawal toward the Az-Zahrani River would be desirable only if it was guaranteed in advance that the vacuum the IDF left would be filled in an orderly fashion. The United States is aware of the moods in Israel — particularly in the General Staff — favoring an evacuation from all of Lebanon and bringing the IDF forces home. As long as the United States

adheres to its current policy, which is aimed at creating conditions in Beirut that will permit the Marines to leave Lebanon honorably, it is not encouraging these Israeli trends. For this reason, Washington is not hesitating to use Israel's security in vain. It feels it is entitled to Israeli support for this position. Israel, on the other hand, is not interested in confirming this U.S. claim because it contradicts Israel's genuine goals: the creation of a security arrangement in southern Lebanon that will permit it to declare an IDF withdrawal, even if the Beirut regime is not stable.

Deliberations on this issue have been held between the two countries. At their end, the United States appealed officially to Israel and asked it if it shared the assessment that a pullout of the Marines would lead to the overthrow of the Al-Jumayyil regime. Israel answered that it did. Israel is not saying in public that the Marines' continued stay is essential to its security. It is certainly not confirming Murphy's claim that it appealed to the United States and begged it not to remove its forces from Lebanon. Israel has no interest in acting as a tool in the hands of the administration, to curb Congressional criticism of its policy in Lebanon: both because Israel, in principle, is wearing the garb of one who is not involved in the internal affairs of the United States; and also because, when one gets down to basics, there is no certainty that a continuation of the Marines' service in Beirut, in Lebanon's current situation and in view of what is expected to occur in that country, has any actual influence concerning Israeli interests.

Just as the United States thinks that it is Israel that dragged it into the Lebanese mire, and it is therefore entitled to support for its current position, so the Government of Israel thinks that it is Washington that pushed its nose into Lebanon and interfered with the full implementation of Israeli plans in that country. These contradictions are being swallowed up behind the understanding achieved between the two countries to coordinate their moves in Lebanon. Richard Murphy's appearance before the House of Representatives' subcommittee on foreign relations, which grated on Israeli ears, could indicate the vulnerability of the cooperation declared by both countries for the past 3 months.

Further HA'ARETZ Commentary

TA021142 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Feb 84 p 7

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "The Withdrawal: The Race for the Excuse"]

[Text] Those who insist on pleading with the government to accelerate the withdrawal from Lebanon had better save their breath. The simple truth is that this is not at all up to Israel. Israel has lost its capacity to decide on a withdrawal by taking its best considerations into account. The evacuation game is now being played by the United States and it will not allow Israel to disrupt it.

Of course, Israel cannot spell out this truth. That is why as the logic behind our prolonged presence in Lebanon evaporates and becomes unexplainable, the reasons against a withdrawal become more convoluted. This week the prime minister overstated the case when he told the Australian foreign minister than an Israeli capitulation to the tough Syrian position and a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon would be "a gift to the Soviets." He added that such a development might have a negative impact on Jordan and the Persian Gulf states. Well then, Israel continues to sit in Lebanon also because of King Husayn and the sultans of the oil emirates. Shamir further promised his guest that if the Syrian president thinks he holds good cards in his policy in Lebanon, he is wrong, and Israel would ultimately make this plain to him.

This is surrealistic babble which is in no way related to the situation in Lebanon, jargon sneering at the facts. Of course, it is Israel's position that is constantly weakening in Lebanon and not that of Syria. The hopes which were dim from the outset that Syria may soften its position did not materialize. Instead of softer talk, the latest reports — which were also to be expected — refer to U.S. readiness to soften its own position toward Syria.

While President Reagan and his aides determinedly speak about fulfilling their commitment in Lebanon indefinitely, Washington is looking for a way out. It came as no surprise when during their stay in Damascus this week the President's envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy expressed readiness for a compromise on the issue of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement by paring it down to security arrangements in the south in exchange for calm. According to these reports, the purpose was to enable the pullout of the Marines from Lebanon by the spring.

Despite Shamir's remarks, Al-Asad is holding the same good cards he held in the past. He is the only incumbent party that is not under pressure because of the current situation. He only has to wait until pressure and the circumstances in both Washington and Jerusalem are ripe for an evacuation. Meanwhile, he has been sabotaging the reconciliation agreement in Lebanon, whereas we have been hearing, also from defense establishment quarters, about the chances for such an agreement. However, other than gradually recognizing that a unilateral solution must be found in southern Lebanon, Israel can no longer set the pace.

The timetable is clearer to the United States: The demand to call back the Marines and the administration's willingness to heed it will increase as the presidential nomination conventions are held in the summer. Meanwhile, a majority has emerged in the House of Representatives to advance the evacuation to the spring while the Republican majority in the Senate is eroding.

That is why in order to withstand the increasing pressure of Congress, the administration badly needs the Israeli alibi, the ability to argue that Israel is the one interested in the continued presence of the Marines. A statement in this spirit by Assistant Secretary of State Murphy in Congress last week has created uneasiness with Israel which, as is known, has never asked to station the Marines and has never pleaded to let them stay. However, even on this issue it is hard for Israel to preserve its freedom of action: Just as it is important for the U.S. Administration that Congress accept such an impression about Israel's interest in the Marines' presence, so would the damage be great if Israel set out to set the facts straight.

This is a bizarre game where two friends are knee-deep in the same trouble and each one of them is looking for the right

circumstances to get out of it. The problem is that, of the two, Israel is the one whose freedom of action is constricted by U.S. needs. This is in fact a race for the right excuse for an evacuation, and Israel is forced to hold according to America's rules. We currently remain in Lebanon first and foremost because of the United States.

The United States has maneuvered the Israeli Government into a position where any independent move would be regarded as adversely affecting U.S. interests. As its economic dependence on Washington increases, Israel cannot afford to disrupt the moves of its friend. It will be caught in a trap in Lebanon, as long as the United States is not convinced that the time has come for an evacuation and that there is no sense in putting it off. This date, however, will first and foremost be set according to U.S. considerations.

Therefore, there is no sense in appealing to the Israeli Government. Washington will be the one to give the signal and it will not come before its time. Signs are increasing that this signal, along with a recommendation to agree to minimalist arrangements in Lebanon, is imminent. Even if it want to, Israel is presently incapable of making a decision on a withdrawal. When the signal is given, it will have to withdraw even if the arrangements are far from satisfactory.

POST on Israeli Strategy, Saudi Arms

TA310849 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jan 84 p 9

[Commentary by Yosef Go'el: "Saudi Arms and Israeli Strategy"]

[Text] As usual, we get sidetracked by marginal issues and miss the main point.

By "we," I mean mostly the media, which determines the agenda for the public's attention, both here and abroad; by "marginal issues," I mean the flap that was set off last weekend over an unguarded statement made to a reporter for the German newspaper *DIE WELT* by the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Matityahu Shmuelevitz; and by the "main point," I mean a realistic assessment of Israel's options in the face of Bonn's apparent determination to go through with its DM 14 billion ($5 billion) arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

The flap, a short-lived one as these things go, centered around the question of whether or not Shmuelevitz had actually told the German reporter that if the proposed arms deal went through, Israel might be forced into launching a pre-emptive strike against Saudi Arabia.

It appears that Shmuelevitz did speak of a hypothetical need for such a pre-emptive strike, but that he did not mention Saudi Arabia specifically by name as the target for such an act. The chronically inaccurate Qol Yisra'el [the Voice of Israel] radio added the name, which was only implied in the original statment.

But all of this is of marginal importance, as is the issue of whether Shmuelevitz should have made the statement at all. He was obviously not speaking for himself, despite his claim to the contrary in the interview. It is certainly legitimate to question the wisdom of the instructions from on high that Shmuelevitz must have gotten and that he went on to exceed. But that, too, is not the point.

The point is that it is totally unreasonable, and foolhardy, to expect Israel to sit and do nothing in the face of a prospective major escalation in the arming of its Arab enemies. And all indications are that Israel failed to dissuade Chancellor Kohl from going ahead with the Saudi arms deal during his recent visit.

This failure is of a piece with Israel's failure to dissuade the Reagan Administration from going ahead with plans to sell AWACS and F-15 fighter planes to Riyadh, and with the impossibility of even talking to the French on their not going ahead with plans for major arms sales to the House of Saud.

From an Israeli point of view these major arms deals must be seen in the context of the major rearming of the Syrian Army by the Soviet Union; of the quiet but steady rebuilding of the Egyptian Army by the U.S.; and of the possibility of a more surreptitious major arming of Iraq from the West.

But should Saudi Arabia be seen as "an Arab enemey" by Israel, despite the cynical protestations of Bonn that Riyadh is not a belligerent in a war zone and thus exempt from the self-imposed German limitations on whom it should accept as an innocent customer for its lethal armaments?

Hitherto, the answer would not have been an unequivocal yes. To be sure, Saudia Arabia, and the House of Saud, have been in the forefront of venomous vocal hostility to Israel and to its existence. They have also been more than a minor irritant to Israel as the major financier of the PLO and of the arms drives of such obvious enemies as Syria and Iraq.

But as the possessor of one of the smallest armies in the Arab world and one of its technologically most backward populations, Saudi Arabia was not an enemy of a magnitude that justified any Israeli determination to broaden the compass of its armed struggle with the Arab world.

But it is specifically this technological backwardness that makes Saudi Arabia such a major threat when it is combined with its ability to buy arms in undreamt of quantities and of unprecedented sophistication.

It is obvious that Saudi Arabia has no potential for using all the German, French and American arms it will be getting, by itself. The intention is for it to become the major armoury for the surrounding Arab world, which despite all the empty Western talk of "moderation" and "peace processes" is still determined to annihilate Israel. The idea is for Saudi Arabia to become another Libya on a much grander scale; Libya as an armoury for Soviet-supplied arms, Saudi Arabia for Western arms.

When confronted with such threats in the past, Israel has nearly always had recourse to preemptive strikes, and justifiably so. The immediate casus belli for the Sinai campaign in 1956 was the

destabilizing Soviet-supplied arms build-up in Egypt, which was aimed entirely at an as yet primitively armed IDF.

In the early 1960's Israel turned to its Mossad to strike at German scientists in Egypt and in Germany who were working on An-Nasir's grandiose scheme for Egyptian land-to-land missiles, aimed only at Israel. And the Israel Air Force was the surgical scalpel used in 1981 to excise the cancer of the French-built nuclear reactor in Baghdad.

The irony of the present situation is that it is the spiralling arming of Saudi Arabia by the Western powers that is fast turning that country into an inescapable target for similar Israeli action in the future. And what the Europeans especially should be made aware of is that if Israel is ever pushed into taking such action it is unreasonable to expect that it will be aimed only at military targets. For the Saudi and Gulf states' oil that lies behind the European determination to flood the area with arms, which cannot but be turned against Israel, will be a strategic target of equal if not greater importance.

To be sure, the fact that Saudi Arabia is today seen as a paramount American interest in this area is a primary force for Israeli reticence. But in an "eve-of-war situation" in which a military buildup and the coalescence of an "eastern front" against Israel is in its final stages, such reticence will in all likelihood be overruled despite the very real danger of a breaking of ranks with our American overlords.

There is a broad consensus in Israel's military and political communities that the decision by Prime Minister Golda Meir not to launch a preemptive air strike against the Egyptian and Syrian forces on the morning of the Yom Kippur war in 1973 out of consideration for Israel's image in the eyes of the American Government was a near fatal mistake.

It is a mistake that will not be repeated if similar circumstances arise in the future.

Treasury Notes Drop in Government Expenses Continues
TA011529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Last month the government injected some 20 billion shekels into the economy, 10 billion of which were funneled into the capital market — to support it by advancing payments to pension schemes, which buy government bonds, as well as encouraging others to buy bonds. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the Treasury notes that the drop in government expenses continues.

The governor of the Bank of Israel said today that over the past 2 months the foreign currency reserves grew by some $200 million. The deposits in shekels rose by some 90 percent, probably as a result of the flow of money from the stocks and bonds market, but in the foreign currency-linked savings plans there was no real change.

Arens: Lebanese Urge No Further IDF Withdrawal
TA020630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says most Lebanese want Israel to keep its forces in their country. Speaking last night at the international conference on terrorism underway in Jerusalem, Arens disputed the impression that the population of southern Lebanon is hostile to Israel.

[Begin Arens recording] I might say that lately there is hardly a Lebanese that I meet who does not plead and implore me as Israel's minister of defense not to evacuate any additional areas in Lebanon. There was no Lebanese in the Ash-Shuf area before the Israel Defense Forces left that area that did not plead with me to delay the evacuation. I think a significant majority of Lebanese look to Israel not with enmity but with friendship, and look to Israel as a factor in the area that can and should be helpful in keeping their country from being subjugated again by the Syrians and in helping to put an end to the years of turmoil, terror and killing that have being going on over there. But the terrorist activity in Lebanon — sponsored and directed by some of the crazy states, in this particular case primarily the Syrians to some extent, and lately more so the Iranians — is directed at stilling these voices, and it is reasonably succesful at doing that because if you follow the media you will not get that impression that that is the feeling of the people of Lebanon. And so the people who throw the bombs, who kill the people, are arriving at the fact that they are trying to achieve or at least they think they have a chance of achieving their ultimate objective. [end recording]

Lubrani on Replacement for Lebanon's Haddad
TA020737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Talks between Israel and Lebanon over finding a replacement for Major S'ad Haddad are continuing, but so far without results, according to the government's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, who was talking with our correspondent Hayim Hecht. He said that Haddad's soldiers continue to carry out all their missions. He believes that the Lebanese Government has a strong interest in appointing a commander on its behalf to the forces. Lubrani went on to say that the arrangements with the Druze in the Ash-Shuf area are satisfactory and it appears that the Druze forces are preventing the entrance of terrorists into this area.

IDF Soldiers Uninjured in Lebanon Attack
TA020929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Automatic fire was directed last night at an IDF post near the village of Al-'Addusiyah south of the Az-Zahrani river. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the soldiers manning the post returned fire and are searching the area at present.

Spokesman on Capture of Terrorist Squad in Lebanon

TA011726 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Feb 84

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [No date or place name as received] The security forces have recently captured a terrorist squad that has operated over the past 7 months in the area northeast of Tyre. This squad is responsible for a series of incidents resulting in the death of six IDF soldiers and additional casualties. On Friday night, 21 January 1984, light arms fire and RPG's were fired from an ambush at an IDF unit in the area of Ma'rub (13 km northeast of Tyre). Our forces sustained no casualties in that incident. The IDF units that combed the area launched searches for the squad, in the direction of Hallusiyat, some 2 km away from that place. At the end of the pursuit and later on in the course of the investigation the security forces captured 15 terrorists, among them the village shaykh. Among the members of the squad were inhabitants of Hallusiyat and other regional villages. It turned out in the investigation that a number of houses in the villages served as hiding places for arms and sabotage material in large quantities, which were intended for terrorist attacks against the IDF soldiers. The investigation is still underway.

The ITIM correspondent adds:

1. From questioning of the squad it was learned that its members were responsible for at least 14 incidents and attempts to attack IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon. Among them, the following incidents should be mentioned:

a. On 10 June 1983, three IDF soldiers were killed by fire directed from an ambush at an IDF patrol in the area of Dayr Qanun an-Nahr.

b. On 15 September 1983, an IDF soldier was killed and seven were wounded by fire directed from an ambush at an IDF unit near Ma'rub.

c. On 25 October 1983 two IDF soldiers were killed by fire directed from an ambush at two IDF vehicles travelling in the vicinity of Shabriha, north of Tyre.

2. The arms that were captured included, among others: 12 Kalashnikov rifles; 75 magazines and ammunition rounds; 9 RPG's, including 45 rockets; 1 Soviet-made PK machine gun; 3 submachine guns; 196 hand grenades of various types; 4 mines; 2 guns; 31 rifle grenades; and 90 bombs of different weights.

Jordan, PLO Oppose Israeli Use of 'Atarot Airport

TA020622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Jordan and the PLO have set up a joint committee to act against the Israeli use of the 'Atarot airport. Jordan has been acting for some time in this issue, and a few months ago it even received a guarantee from the Italian Government that Alitalia planes would not use 'Atarot airport.

West Bankers Banned From Meeting With 'Arafat

TA011942 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The Government of Israel is banning Palestinians from the territories from going to Jordan to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. Recently some people asked for permission for such a meeting — when 'Arafat comes to Jordan — in order to persuade him to strengthen his cooperation with King Husayn. The authorities are encouraging a dialogue between the Arabs of the territories and the Government of Jordan, but these people have been told that they are absolutely banned from meeting with Yasir 'Arafat.

HA'ARETZ on 'Arafat-Husayn Meeting

TA011047 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 84 p 7

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "The Next Opportunity"]

[Text] "And what if the talks between the king and Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] fail?" — the East Jerusalem paper *AL-QUDS* asked this week. "And what if the meeting between you and the head of the organization fails?" — an Arab correspondent asked King Husayn in a news conference held in Amman this week. Both the king and *AL-QUDS* did not reply directly to the question currently bothering the West Bank and other places as well.

The pro-Jordanian *AL-QUDS* evaded the issue by expressing its wishes and expectations that the meeting will succeed, and by saying that there is actually no reason why it should not succeed. "Why do we always try to be pessimistic?" the paper wondered. On the other hand, the king replied that the problem and the wish to solve it was a common cause and he could not envision failure.

Public dignitaries who returned from Jordan 2 days ago had a clear answer to the reason why the king was not afraid about failure: "Whether 'Arafat does or does not come to Amman, the king has already won." Moreover, they added, "a failure of the talks between the two sides may strengthen the king." These figures went on to say that in talks with Jordanian officials — beginning with the new prime minister, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, and Minister of the Occupied Territories Shawkat Mahmud, who used to be the chief of intelligence — they were encouraged to proceed with political activities in the territories. These activities will apparently take the form of manifestos supporting the king, visits by delegations of public figures to Jordan, and particularly the preparation of public opinion in the West Bank for the possibility of Jordanian political activity without the PLO.

These direct guidelines by Jordanian authorities to activists in the West Bank, along with the reactivation of parliament which includes an equal number of delegates from the West Bank and the East Bank, prove that Jordan no longer considers itself bound by the 1974 Rabat resolutions. In that conference, the PLO was elected the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and as a result of that resolution the king dissolved the parliament and, at least on the outside, made believe that he was taking his hands off the Palestinian case.

The renewal of the Jordanian Parliament's activities, the king's frequent utterances about the West Bank, and the frequent audiences he gives to delegations from the West Bank (including members and activists of the Village Leagues), further show that the king is no longer afraid of Arab or Palestinian sanctions against him for deviating from the Rabat conference resolutions. Indeed, there has not been any Arab reaction yet to the king's statements linking both banks of the Jordan River to the Hashemite Kingdom.

The fact that the king has shaken loose of the Rabat resolutions, and the fact that Arab sanctions did not ensue, may lead to the conclusion that Husayn no longer sees the need to hide behind the Rabat resolutions to refrain from independent political activity. His avowed commitment to these resolutions has so far allowed him to take the position of an observer and say: "I cannot do anything as long as the Rabat countries and the PLO do not change their resolutions." The latest initiative shows that he believes the time has come for Jordanian political action, and that it is no longer necessary to hide behind the Arab agreement or disagreement.

If these feelings — which have been conveyed by envoys coming and going to Jordan and by the media — are true, then the king actually does not need to set things straight with 'Arafat. On the contrary, 'Arafat is the one who needs the king's agreement to walk together on the political path. Although 'Arafat's authorization would paint Husayn with a "pure Palestinian color" and would grant him Palestinian approval for political moves in the future, it would, on the other hand, entangle Husayn in the entire Palestinian problem, rather than just that of the West Bank. Moreover, such an authorization would turn 'Arafat into a partner who must be taken into consideration on each and every move, and it stands to reason that the king does not really need such an onerous partnership at present.

The Palestinian "partnership" he needs he can now get from the Arabs of the West Bank. These people fulfill all the requirements necessary as far as Jordan is concerned: They cannot set up an independent political organization because of the occupation; they do not represent a military threat because they are unarmed; they are almost absolutely dependent on Jordan economically; and they are at present even ready to lend a hand to a Jordanian political move, since there is no other Arab element which can and wants to do it. However, while Husayn can count on the population of the West Bank almost as a fact, 'Arafat cannot. The angry undertones that accompanied the suspension of the talks between 'Arafat and Husayn a few months ago might turn into overt opposition to 'Arafat if he undermines a Jordanian political move. The very least that 'Arafat's supporters in the West Bank expect of him at present is that he proceed wisely and remain a party to such a move. They are afraid that the king might undermine the meeting expected to take place in 2 weeks and present 'Arafat as the person responsible for its failure. Husayn would thus avail himself of the possibility of unrestricted action. One may say that the wheel has turned since the last talks. At that time, Jordanian supporters feared for the fate of the talks, and were hoping for 'Arafat's agreement. Today, 'Arafat's supporters are the ones plagued by fear.

The question of the right timing must be added to all this. The current state of relations between Israel and the United States, and the latter's ambition to include Jordan in the political process, allow the king to carry out his moves almost unhindered. Israel cannot ban the activities of Jordanian activists in the West Bank lest it arouse the fury of the United States. The economic and political mess afflicting the Israeli Government at present precludes it from conducting a thorough debate on the issue of the territories, and certainly does not allow it to set a long-term West Bank policy. Thus, the government finds itself in the position of reacting rather than initiating concerning Jordanian activities. The issue of the settlements is stalled due to budgetary constrictions and the small number of people willing to settle in the territories. Egypt's position as a potential Jordanian ally and Syria's renewed isolation create a special situation which might change within a few days or weeks.

However, Jordan's political wisdom, the efficacy of its moves, and their right timing are only one side of the coin, and as the Arab saying goes "you need two hands to applaud." Therefore, this also represents a test of the Israeli Government's intentions. Without an explicit Israeli declaration that would give momentum to the political move, this chance might also pass and become another chapter in the history of the missed Israeli-Arab opportunities.

UNRWA Closes Training Centers in Ramallah

TA011631 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1550 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 1 Feb (ITIM) — This morning UNRWA closed two additional vocational training centers in the Ramallah District.

This move came in reaction to moves by the student unions supporting the PLO, which have recently staged strikes and engaged in activity against the institutes' administrations, which have decided to impose the Jordanian "comprehensive test."

ITIM has learned that the students in those training centers are continuing to hold rallies and stage strikes against the administrations.

IDF Public Call-Up Exercise in 'Near Future'

TA020642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] A public call-up exercise will be held in the near future. The exercise is meant to train the reserve structure in the full public call-up method, and to test its efficiency. The public call-up will be carried out by broadcasting the codewords of the units on radio and television. The exercise will comprise several thousand reservists and reserve vehicle units. Upon hearing the announcement on radio or television, or upon learning about the public call-up, the reservist will check whether the codeword of his unit is included. If his codeword has been broadcast or published, he should immediately report to the regular meeting place or report directly to his unit. A reservist whose vehicle has also been mobilized must first report to the regular parking lot of reserve vehicles, and later proceed to his unit. This call-up exercise does not cancel or shorten the call-up of reservists who

have been summoned for reserve service according to the annual plan, through personal call-up orders sent to them in advance.

USSR Permitted 88 Jews To Leave in January

TA011515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The Soviets permitted only 88 Jews to leave the country in January. Of them, one-quarter — namely 22 — have immigrated to Israel. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that none of the emigrants last month came from the major cities from which Jews emigrate — Moscow, Riga, and Vilna. Our correspondent also adds that this number of emigrants, coupled with the increased anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli instigation in the Soviet Union, indicates that the authorities are stepping up their campaign against the Jews who wish to leave, as well as against the Jewish revival and culture movement.

Chile Refuses Rauff Extradition Request

TA020736 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Chile has rejected a request by Israel to expel Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff. The request was presented personally by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche who is in Chile on a day-long visit. The Chilean foreign minister explained that his country's supreme court had already rejected a similar German request more than 20 years ago and there was no reason to change the decision. Walter Rauff served as an SS colonel and is accused of killing 100,000 Jews during World War II. Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld said she was threatened with expulsion from Chile unless she dropped her campaign against Rauff. She told reporters in Santiago that she was told to sign a document saying she would behave only as a tourist and she refused.

Briefs

1983 Security Exports — In 1983 Israel's security exports declined by about 10 percent. The decline was particularly felt in the metallurgy and electronics fields and resulted in a decline of 6 percent in overall industrial exports last year. The director general of the Industry and Trade Ministry says that in recent months the profitability of exports has risen by about 15 percent and that in 1984 industrial exports are expected to rise by about 10 percent. In addition, if the free trade zone agreement is signed with the United States, there is a chance to attain the original exports forecast, namely that in 1990 industrial exports will total $9 billion. [Tel Aviv *'AL HAMISHMAR* in Hebrew 31 Jan 84 p 2 TA]

OAU Secretary General on RSA Military Strength

AB020840 Lagos NAN in English 0805 GMT 2 Feb 84

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Accra, Feb 1 (NAN) — South Africa is reported planning to conscript white, Indian and Coloured women into its Defence Forces in a move designed to step up its hostilities toward the Frontline States.

This was contained in a report on the situation in southern Africa submitted to the recently concluded OAU Defence Commission conference in Accra, by the interim secretary-general of the Organization, Dr Peter Onu.

Dr Onu noted that in order to maintain its strength and continue its aggression against southern African states, the apartheid regime now operated "an astronomical war budget of approximately 2.73 billion dollars (about 2.04 million naira)." The current strength of the South African Defence Forces stands at 92,700 with reservists totalling well over 230,000, he said.

Dr Onu added that for military surveillance purposes Pretoria had recently acquired a sophisticated radar equipment from Marconi, a British firm, and that a modern communications complex had just been installed at Silvermine, near Cape Town, to monitor all air and sea traffic in the Indian and South Atlantic Oceans.

He said that in spite of South Africa's increasing military preparedness, SWAPO and the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) had of late been recording considerable successes over the enemy, "killing and capturing many enemy troops, downing helicopters and jet fighters, destroying communication and transport infrastructure and generally dealing with white farmers in the rural areas."

Dr Onu called on OAU member states to provide more assistance to the Frontline States and liberation movements in South Africa. "With diplomatic, political, financial and military assistance from progressive mankind, the national liberation movements will triumph," he concluded.

Brah Mamane Nominated ICDCS Executive Secretary

AB011855 Paris AFP in French 1906 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Niamey, 31 Jan (AFP) — Mr Brah Mamane (Niger), who on Monday in Niamey was nominated executive secretary of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, ICDCS, has a long history of ministerial career behind him.

Mr Brah Mamane notably directed the agricultural policy of his country for 5 years, first of all, as secretary of state for rural development from February 1978 to September 1978, and then as minister from September 1978 to February 1981. Then he later occupied the post of minister of planning from February 1981 to June 1982 before he was appointed as the minister of posts and telecommunications.

Mr Brah Mamane left the government following the last reshuffle in November 1983.

He replaces Mr Seck Mame N'Diack of Mauritania as executive secretary for a 3-year term of office.

Heads of State Depart Following ICDCS Summit

AB312224 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Presidents Aristides Maria Pereira of Cape Verde, Dawda Jawara of Gambia, Moussa Traore of Mali, Abdou Diouf of Senegal, and Hissein Habre of Chad, as well as representatives of the presidents of Upper Volta and Mauritania, left Niamey this afternoon following the sixth summit of heads of state of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel.

ALGERIA

Malagasy Visitor Delivers Ratsiraka Message

LD012201 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state at the presidency, today received Georges Solofson, the Malagasy minister of commerce and special envoy of the president of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka.

The Malagasy envoy conveyed a message to President Chadhli Bendjedid from the Malagasy president.

LIBYA

JANA Cites Bardai on GUNT Repelling Habre

LD020818 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Bardai, 2 Feb (JANA) — Bardai radio, organ of the Transitional National Unity Government quoting a GUNT military spokesman, said that forces of the rebel Habre, backed by French forces, have launched an attack against the positions of the GUNT in the region of Toko, and that the forces of the legitimate government have confronted them and inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment.

The radio said that the losses suffered by the rebel Habre forces had reached 354 killed — in addition to four French soldiers killed, who were driving intelligence vehicles — and hundreds of wounded. Bardai radio added that the GUNT forces had destroyed four enemy half-tracks, seven vehicles of various types, five jeep-mounted 106-caliber guns, 10 truck-mounted 14.5 mm machine guns, and a French-made machine gun.

The forces of GUNT are still chasing the fleeing hordes of the rebel Habre and his collaborators.

French Minister Cheysson's Chad Visit Previewed

LD011439 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 01 Feb 84

[Text] The French external relations minister is due to arrive in Chad for a visit which will include Ethiopia and the Jamahiriyah. A statement issued by the French External Relations Ministry said that the visit's intention is to secure peace in Chad. Here is an analysis of the visit:

Since Giscard d'Estaing assumed power in France, French diplomacy has been in a maze of confusion and contradiction, particularly with regard to Africa. A Gaullist politician has described this policy as being beset with remarkable confusion in the era of Mitterrand, who was lured by the American Administration into a losing war in Chad and other areas in Africa. In the wake of the American intervention in the middle of last year as a direct party to the Chadian war — with the United States offering weapons and other assistance to the rebel Habre estimated at $10 million — it has been suggested to Mitterrand that the American Administration was trying to undermine the credibility of the French role in Africa, and that French interests were in danger, a matter that caused him to send forces to Chad which are now apparently at a difficult impasse.

The visit begun today by the French external relations minister in Chad will apparently not lead to anything positive if France fails to recognize that there is a minority holding the Chadian people under a tyrannical yoke of power, that this minority has arrived at power in an opportunistic way with the help of foreign powers, led by France, and that it is now time for the emergence of a Chadian national government and for peace to prevail. After all, this confusion does not serve Africa, the Africans, or world peace.

U.S. Official Cited on 'Campaign' Against Libya

LD021135 Tripoli JANA in English 0945 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 28, Feb. 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The U.S. aid provided to some countries is a weapon used by the U.S. Administration to ensure the loyalty of these countries in serving interests, and to suppress the uprisings and revolutionary movements in these countries.

William Schneider, the assistant-secretary of state for security affairs, admitted this publicly and added that the aid provided by Reagan to a number of Arab, African and Asian countries is conditional: Firstly, to guarantee the recipient regimes' loyalty to the U.S; secondly, subjugation of these regimes to serve U.S. policies, plans and aims which are pointed against countries who refuse U.S. hegemony; thirdly, to liquidate all liberation elements and movements opposed to these regimes which are U.S. puppets.

In the framework of the campaign against Libya, the U.S. official admitted that the conditions which go with the aid to some regimes is to subjugate these regimes in the aggression against Libya. This statement is a blatant threat to the Jamahiriyah as it demonstrated an aggressive spirit and a policy which uses terror as an instrument.

The announcement by William Schneider indicates beyond any doubt an escalation of the aggressive campaign started by Reagan's administration against the Libyan Arab people who are strongly resisting the policy of aggression and terror practiced by the U.S.,and who are containing all the attempts tried by Reagan's administration whose objectives are to expand U.S. domination and to deprive struggling nations of their right to freedom.

By offering economic and military aid to pro-U.S. countries and regimes supporting its policies, the U.S. is actually demanding something against all international conventions and principles — which is to continue in carrying out U.S. aggression policies, particularly against Libya. In fact, they are asked to continue aggression not only against Libya but against all the countries who say no to the U.S. and to its policies and presence.

We believe that besides being used as pressure [words indistinct] regimes in favor of U.S. policies, into channels and means of

aggression, such aid has the aim to achieve the evil intention of linking these economies with U.S. interests and with capitalist monopolies. We have confirmed that all such objectives are against the interests and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of the nations exploited and suppressed by regimes which connect their fate to a U.S. basis and policies, based on shaking security and stability and threatening world peace.

MOROCCO

Madrid Reports on Casualties, Continuing Arrests

LD012043 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1919 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] In Morocco, the consequences of the recent bloody events are still being felt. For instance, disturbing news is now reaching Melilla. Our correspondent in Melilla, Juan Jose Nicolas, now reports via Radio National Espanola in Malaga:

[Nicolas] The army, which initially took control of the situation, has given way to the Moroccan secret police who continue to make indiscriminate arrests despite the fact that some time has now passed since the recent bloody events. A close watch is also being kept on the Moroccans who arrive daily in Melilla.

Once the disturbances had been quelled by the Moroccan Royal Army, all the detainees [Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 1 February says 500 were arrested] were loaded with their hands tied behind their backs into trucks and taken to the town of Khenifra where, according to sources consulted by this radio station, they could be held for several months before being tried by military courts. The same sources said that they are not asking for a royal pardon, but rather calling on all international bodies monitoring human rights to request that the detainees be tried as soon as possible with maximum guarantees that there be an end to the mortal torture which is now being carried out.

With regard to the deaths during the disturbances, the sources consulted said that the official figures are ridiculous because at least one out of every three families has lost a member. They also said that it is completely untrue that the injured have been returned to their families, who have not been allowed access to the hospitals.

It also seems to have been confirmed that there exists a mass grave where the bodies have reportedly been placed fully clothed.

SUDAN

Official Holds Talks With Soviet Ambassador

EA012038 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, assistant to the president of the republic for foreign policy, received his excellency the ambassador of the Soviet Union in Khartoum in his office at the People's Palace this morning.

After the meeting, Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi explained in a press statement that the meeting dealt with the development of relations between Sudan and the Soviet Union. The international situation was also reviewed.

Trade Minister Receives Pakistani Counterpart

JN011528 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA) — Ahmad Salim Ahmad, minister of state for cooperation, commerce and supply, met here today with the visiting Pakistani minister of the production division and national logistic board, Lieutenant General Said Qadir, and discussed trade exchange between Sudan and Pakistan and the means to promote it. They also discussed cooperation between the two countries in various fields of investment.

The Pakistani minister arrived in Sudan yesterday on a 5-day visit to hold talks with a number of Sudanese economic officials. He will visit the Khartoum International Fair — in which Pakistan is participating for the first time — during the fair's current seventh run.

Information Minister Returns From Jakarta 1 Feb

JN021059 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Feb (SUNA) — Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, minister of national guidance and information, returned home yesterday after representing Sudan at the Information Ministers' Conference of Nonaligned Countries which was held in Jakarta between 26-30 January.

TUNISIA

Essebsi Addresses Envoys to Magreb States

LD020024 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] A meeting of the Tunisian ambassadors to the countries of the Arab Maghreb — Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria and Libya — convened yesterday morning, Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi. The conference falls within the framework of the Foreign Ministry's efforts to bolster ties of fraternity and cooperation between Tunisia and friendly and fraternal countries.

In a speech at the conference, Essebsi reviewed the development of the relations between Tunisia and the Arab Maghreb countries in accordance with the directives of the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba. He also expressed satisfaction with the steps already taken toward bolstering bilateral relations and building the Arab Maghreb structure, particularly during the past year. He underlined the importance Tunisia attaches to the building of the Arab Maghreb, adding that Tunisia has laid the basis for fruitful cooperation based on mutual respect and integration.

Essebsi affirmed Tunisia's determination to continue to work for the creation of an Arab Maghreb that would meet the aspirations of the region's peoples. He also stated that the meeting of the ambassadors is the result of the new dynamism that drives the countries of the Arab Maghreb on the road to the unity which is dictated by history and the future of the region.

The conference will continue until tomorrow, Friday. It is being attended by the higher echelons of the Foreign Ministry.

ETHIOPIA

Nigerian Envoy Brings Mengistu Message From Buhari

AB011840 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, Feb 1 (AFP) — Nigeria wishes to see an "urgent solution" to the 17-year civil war in Chad and is ready to cooperate with all countries in that effort, a Nigerian envoy was quoted here today as saying.

Ambassador Olujimi Jolaoso said his country was at the same time opposed to all acts of interference aimed at worsening the Chadian situation.

His remarks, reported by the official ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY, came during a meeting here with Ethiopia's second-in-command, Fikre-Selassie Wogderess.

During the meeting, Mr. Jolaoso delivered a message on Chad from Nigerian Head of State Mohammadu Buhari for Ethiopian leader and current Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The precise content of the message was not known, but Nigeria was said to have declared its backing for Lt. Col. Mengistu in his search for a solution to the Chadian (?problem).

Soviet Azerbaijan Delegation Arrives 1 Feb

EA011348 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Summary] A Soviet delegation from the Azerbaijan SSR, led by Badio Bamid, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Planning Commission, arrived in Addis Ababa today for a 1-week working visit to Ethiopia.

KENYA

Foreign Minister on RSA Forces Leaving Angola

LD012212 Nairobi KNA in English 1830 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Nairobi — There cannot be any external guarantee for peace in southern Africa other than that which is guaranteed in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, a resolution which is the most acceptable basis for negotiation on the question of Namibia. This was stated today by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, when he received the high commissioner of Zambia, Mr J.M. Chimba.

He was commenting on yesterday's announcement by South Africa that it was unilaterally disengaging its forces from Angola on the basis of a guarantee given by the USA following talks between the USA, Angola and Cape Verde. Mr Mwangale said that Kenya is glad to note that at long last the prime minister of South Africa, Mr Pik Botha [first name as received], had realized that there cannot be long-term military solutions to the problems of southern Africa. Mr Mwangale observed that the South African prime minister had stated that his country was disengaging her troops from the territory of Angola as a result of guarantees given to her by the USA, and said that the only guarantee to this issue rests with the support South Africa would enjoy from her people in the territory.

The Kenyan minister said that no external country, no matter how powerful it might be, is capable of guaranteeing the internal security of any nation. He therefore advised South Africa to first seek the guarantee of peace from the people of South Africa itself and then consult with SWAPO and the independent Africa states neighbouring South Africa for a comprehensive peace plan in southern Africa.

Mr Mwangale, who was flanked by his assistant minister, Prof Paul Sumbi, and senior officers of the ministry, said that Kenya was grateful to Zambia for hosting the summit meeting at which the agreement to establish Preferential Trade Area (PTA) was signed. He told the high commissioner that with the formation of PTA, the people of the eastern and southern African states will now enjoy clear economic cooperation.

With the border between Kenya and Tanzania now open, Mr Mwangale continued, the East African region will henceforth achieve a wider economic base for the mutual benefit of all the people of the area. The minister said that Kenya welcomes and stands for peace and cooperation with all her neighbours.

Regarding relations between Kenya and Zambia, the minister said the two countries enjoy very cordial ties and have had peace within their borders as a result of the enightened leadership of their presidents, first through the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, and now through President Daniel arap Moi for Kenya and by President Kenneth Kaunda on the part of Zambia.

Mr Mwangale noted that Zambia would have had greater economic achievements had her territory not been the victim of frequent raids conducted by the racist regime of Pretoria.

Mr Chimba, who is leaving, having been assigned duties elsewhere, said Zambia is fully committed to the liberation of the whole area of southern Africa, no matter how expensive that support might be.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Supports U.S. Peace Plan for Namibia

LD011637 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The chairman of the Frontline States, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, says he fully supports the American-sponsored peace initiatives in South-West Africa/Namibia.

Speaking in Dodoma after a 1-hour meeting with the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, President Nyerere did not specifically endorse a proposed cease-fire in the territory. He said Africa would support any effort by the United States and its allies to bring about a genuine settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia.

The Tanzanian president avoided any direct reference to South Africa's disengagement of its forces in southern Angola, announced in Cape Town yesterday as the first step toward the cease-fire.

Crocker Cited on RSA Angolan Withdrawal Condition
EA011927 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Dodoma: South Africa has been named as the stumbling block to the successful implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 regarding the future of Namibia.

According to the United States [assistant] secretary of state for African affairs, Mr Crocker, Pretoria's position calling for unconditional withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola has not changed. Mr Crocker revealed this today at an airport news conference in Dodoma after meeting President Nyerere at Chamwino state lodge. President Nyerere is the chairman of Frontline States.

Mr Crocker said his diplomatic mission to southern Africa concerned the realization of United Nations Resolution 435, which calls for, among other things, a cease-fire in Namibia, a United Nations international peace-keeping force, as well as United Nations-supervised elections in the territory.

Mr Crocker said Washington will be ready to recognize Angola within the framework of the realization of United Nations Resolution 435.

On his talks with Mwalimu [Nyerere], Mr Crocker spoke of a common desire for peace between warring sides in Namibia. Mr Crocker has left Tanzania for Mozambique following his earlier visits to South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Background to Kolingba Orders To Close Schools

AB011724 Paris AFP in French 1015 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Bangui, 1 Feb (AFP) — General Andre Kolingba, CAR head of state, on Tuesday ordered the closure of the university and all junior and high schools in Bangui, as well as the Higher Institute of Rural Development, and banned any meetings or rallies there. Activities of the National Association of Centrafrican Students, ANECA, and the Union of Centrafrican Secondary School students, USCA, have also been suspended.

All who fail to respect these measures, President Kolingba said, will be considered elements constituting a threat to state security. The security forces have been guarding public buildings since Tuesday.

In his message to the nation the CAR head of state said on Tuesday that to ensure freedom of education for the majority of the people, he had decided to open a register in each institution on Friday and Saturday. These measures, he pointed out, are aimed at enabling all those who wish to pursue the normal course of their studies. Teachers have been invited to return to their posts on Friday and Saturday and teach as of next Monday, regardless of the number of students present.

We must refer to December 1983 to understand the meaning of the measures taken by President Kolingba. In fact, in the framework of the national recovery campaign, the government decided to make recruitments into the civil service by decree, in order to ensure the quality, [word indistinct] and efficiency that a country must expect from its public service, it was officially underlined. Similarly, the constraints of a precarious economic situation and the expectations it has given rise to made the government determined to reintroduce the system of a competitive examination for scholarships with the aim of rewarding the efforts of candidates and motivating them. In the CAR Government's view, this new procedure was to make it possible to eliminate the arbitrary distribution of scholarships and the arbitrary recruitment of civil servants of the past.

This gave rise to some ambiguity and even anxiety in the minds of the students. To prevent any equivocation, the CAR head of state met students' representatives and parents and set up an interministerial commission charged with the application of the two decrees.

This commission is a consultative organ in which the interested partners are represented to a large extent. The executive bureaus of the ANECA and the USCA, which were worried about these arrangements, refused to participate in the meetings.

In his message to the nation the CAR president disclosed that he had proof of the fact that some politicians had beseiged the universities to air their "personal bitterness," which he described as "inadmissible."

CHAD

France's Cheysson Arrives in Ndjamena 1 Feb

AB020800 Paris AFP in French 0716 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Feb (AFP) — French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson arrived in Ndjamena Wednesday evening to "discuss the delicate problem of restoring peace in Chad," according to Chadian offical circles.

These circles, observers note, are quite sceptical about the success of this mission by the head of French diplomacy, who after Chad will visit Addis Ababa, headquarters of the OAU (whose current chairman in the Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam) and the Libyan capital, Tripoli. "It is difficult to see the basis for a negotiated solution at the present stage of the conflict between Chad and Libya," it is stated in Ndjamena.

Commenting on this situation, the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY [ATP] feels that the time chosen by Paris for Mr Cheysson's visit "could make Colonel al-Qadhdhafi think that intimidation has worked," after the loss of a French pilot whose plane was shot down by forces of the Transitional National Union Government in western Chad. "It should not be forgotten that the restoration of peace in Chad primarily concerns the Chadians," adds ATP, which stresses that Chad will reject "Libyan peace" for as long as Col al-Qadhdhafi "persists in his aggressive desires." ATP, however, hopes that the "triangular tour by Claude Cheysson will bring Al-Qadhdhafi to reason and will allow the evacuation of the Chadian territory that he occupies."

"Chadians," ATP concludes, "are waiting for this sudden change more especially as President Mitterrand reassures them by his desire to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Chad."

Meets With Habre, Poli

AB021123 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Feb 2 (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson began talks here today with Chad's President Hissein Habre as part of a new French bid to bring about national reconciliation in Chad.

Mr Cheysson, who arrived in the Chadian capital last night, earlier had talks with the commander of French forces in Chad, General Jean Poli.

The foreign minister goes on tonight to Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Organization of African Unity. After that he is to have talks in Tripoli, Libya.

Government Reports Destroying Rebel Column Near Iriba

NC011355 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, Feb 1 (AFP) — An "enemy" column preparing to attack the Iriba post in eastern Chad was wiped out by Chadian

Government forces, a spokesman at the Chadian Embassy said today.

According to the spokesman, the 300-man column was spotted yesterday before reaching Iriba, which is 150 kms (90 miles) southeast of Oum Chalouba and south of the "Red Line" maintained by French troops to separate the troops of President Hissein Habre in the south from the Libyan-backed forces of ousted leader Goukouni Oueddei in the north.

The government troops took possession of about 40 vehicles and 14 heavy weapons, mostly rocket launchers, the spokesman added. He gave no details of casualties.

Several Hundred Said Killed

AB020826 Paris AFP in French 0719 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Feb (AFP) — The battle which took place last Monday in Mounoum (between Fada and Iriba in northeast Chad) is reported to have left several hundred people dead or wounded, it was announced by Chadian military sources in Ndjamena.

According to the same sources, the National Armed Forces of Chad [FANT] took 234 prisoners and captured 10 Stalin (?automatic weapons) mounted on vehicles as well as some haulage units. The military sources stated that the intercepted column comprised 600 men. Finally, they announced that all threats to eastern Chad have "for the moment been eliminated."

The Chadian Embassy in Paris announced on Wednesday morning that a Goukouni-Libyan column comprising 300 men was annihilated on Monday.

GUNT Spokesman: Ziguey Skirmish Not Aimed at French

PM011158 Paris LE MATIN in French 27 Jan 84 p 3

[Interview with Chad Transitional National Union Government spokesman Abderrahamane Moussa by "F.C." on 26 January — place not given]

[Text] "We think that the partition of Chad is unacceptable. In any event we do not accept it, because there is not a 'useful' Chad in the south and a 'useless' Chad in the north. We wanted to draw international public attention to this military partition of our country by carrying out an action which was in no way aimed at the French Army." Abderrahmane Moussa, spokesman for the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], led by Goukouni Oueddei and based in Bardai, Tibesti, told us about the "raid on Ziguey" yesterday.

According to GUNT it happened on 24 January — last Tuesday, in other words — and the whole operation lasted only 6 hours, from 1100 to 1700. "A group of commandos from the GUNT's National Liberation Army [ANL] left to attack the Ziguey post, well south of the 'Red Line' and held by Habre's forces. We launched a surprise attack on them, killed 53 members of FAN [Northern Armed Forces] (Habre's forces), and captured soldiers and two doctors from the Doctors Without Borders organization," Abderrahamane Moussa explained to us. "Our commandos then moved back north, crossed the 'Red Line' again, and headed for Faya-Largeau. On the way back on Tuesday evening, French Jaguar aircraft intervened. We counted seven of them, but they attacked in waves. We tried to defend ourselves, because we were justified in using self-defense. I repeat that our objective was to attack not the French Army but only Habre's FAN. Furthermore, the entire operation was carried out by members of ANL, not of the Libyan Army."

The GUNT spokesman also said that two French Jaguar aircraft were shot down by SAM-7 missiles. On the other hand, Abderrahamane Moussa was not able to confirm that a French Mirage aircraft was hit during that skirmish. According to him, no Mirage was seen in the sky over Ziguey.

"We did not suffer too much damage," Abderrahamane Moussa added, saying that he did not believe that the Jaguar attack brought about the "destruction" of the column. According to an independent source, the assailants abandoned their vehicles as soon as the Jaguar was shot down. That is apparently confirmed by the photographs taken by the aircraft during the skirmish.

"I do not think France will retaliate," he added. "It must realize that this war is an intra-Chadian affair, but if it can help us to restore peace, it is welcome to do so."

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Receives Message From SDAR President

AB011830 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Head of State Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso received Mr Sidati, secretary general of the SDAR Presidency, late this morning. After the audience the SDAR envoy told (Lonangossa) that he was the bearer of a message from the SDAR president to his Congolese counterpart:

[Begin recording] [Sidati] First of all, I want to tell you that my visit to his excellency, the president of the People's Republic of Congo, falls within the framework of consultations aimed at harmonizing the views between the SDAR and Congo. That is the purpose of my mission. In fact, I can tell you that I was sent by SDAR President His Excellency Mohamed Abdelaziz to hand a message to His Excellency President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. I must underline that thanks to the relations of brotherhood and solidarity which have always existed between the SDAR and the People's Republic of Congo, President Sassou-Nguesso showed understanding during my talks with him. I can therefore say that our presence here is motivated by the desire to strengthen our relations, and to harmonize our views on a number of issues including African issues.

[(Lonangossa)] After the failure of the last meeting of the OAU committee on the implementation of the resolution calling for a self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara, how does the situation look now?

[Sidati] First of all, if the meeting of the implemention committee in Addis Ababa failed, everyone knows — and the People's Republic of Congo better than anyone else — that the SDAR was not responsible for the failure. On the contrary, Morocco was responsible. It refused obstinately to endorse and implement the pertinent resolutions of the OAU [words indistinct] upheld by the United Nations, which made the resolutions mandatory for the two warring parties, that is, juridically, the Polisario Front and Morocco.

But Morocco, to the best of our knowledge, has refused to hold negotiations with the Polisario Front on the conditions for a cease-fire and a referendum. It is therefore fully responsible for the failure of attempts by the OAU committee to settle the conflict peacefully. [passage indistinct]

Morocco's refusal has left no other alternative to the implementation committee. In view of this, I think that there is only one solution left: The SDAR will now occupy its rightful seat in accordance with the OAU Charter.

Meanwhile, Morocco has substituted in place of the OAU peace plan a war program, according to which all its moves are aimed at escalating military activities through increased military equipment, the construction of a protection wall after the first wall proved ineffective in the face of our attacks. [end recording]

Joint Commission With Yugoslavia Holds Session

AB011350 Dakar PANA in French 1320 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 31 Jan (ACI/PANA) — The Congo-Yugoslavia Joint Commission held its second session in the Congolese capital from 26-28 January under the chairmanship of Aime Emmanuel Yoka, Congolese minister delegate to the Presidency in charge of cooperation, and Milenko Bojanic, member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and federal secretary for foreign trade.

During the deliberations of the Joint Commission, the two sides examined and assessed the level of their economic, cultural, scientific, and technical relations.

The press release issued at the end of the meeting says that in view of the cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding that prevailed at the session, the deliberations were successful in regard to the various questions of economic, commercial, sociocultural, scientific, and technical cooperation and on various other issues on the agenda.

Meanwhile, during the various rounds of talks which the leader of the Yugoslav delegation, Mr Bojanic, held with Congolese authorities, especially with Louis-Sylvain Goma, prime minister and head of government, it was agreed, among other things, that the bilateral cooperation should be extended to cover the field of agriculture. In this regard, the Congolese side expressed the desire to see the creation of a joint company with the PKB [expansion unknown].

Yugoslav sources say the PKB is a major agricultural venture in Yugoslavia and one of the most important in the world.

The two delegations agreed to hold the third session of the joint commission in Belgrade at a date to be fixed through diplomatic channels.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Address at Dinner for Egypt's Mubarak

AB012220 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1345 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Speech by President Mobutu Sese Seko at a dinner in honor of visiting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on 31 January in Kinshasa]

[Excerpts] Mr President, allow me first of all to wish you and the honorable delegation accompanying you a hearty welcome to Kinshasa and to express the joy felt by the Zairian people as a whole — united within our great national party, the Popular Movement of the Revolution — in welcoming for the first time in Zaire a head of state of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Your presence in Zaire, Mr Mubarak, give us an opportunity to express once more our gratitude for the warmth of the welcome given us by the Egyptian people during our official visit to your beautiful country in February 1974.

It is also an opportunity for me to reiterate the thanks of the Zairian people for the brotherly and spontaneous help that your country gave us, first, during the UN intervention in the Congo in 1960, and later, in 1977, at the time of armed aggression in the Shaba region.

Today the nature of world politics is hardly optimistic; and in this sad setting, Africa and the Middle East in particular are the major stars.

Two problems are currently preoccupying Africans and all lovers of justice and peace: apartheid and colonialism. The situation in southern Africa continues to be a source of anxiety. The painful and throbbing problems of apartheid, racism, and blind and inhuman repression are still alive.

And as though the insult of apartheid were not enough, there is the colonialism which persists in Namibia. The Western powers belonging to the Contact Group, who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of seeking a solution to the problem of Namibia, have, unfortunately, been unable up till now to implement the settlement plan that is known by everyone. We think that it is only the strict implementation of the pertinent resolutions of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly that will enable the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO to fulfill their deep and legitimate aspirations for peace, freedom, and self-determination, for respect for their unity and their territorial integrity.

With regard to the Middle East, since the end of World War II the Middle East has stood out as a troubled region. In view of the experiences since 1948, and to restore peace and find a lasting and acceptable solution to he Middle East crisis, there is a need for negotiation between the parties concerned.

However complex the problem may be, the framework and the premises of solutions have been worked out and exist. We find them in particular in the pertinent UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

A few days ago when I received President Hayim Herzog of Israel, who was on an official visit to Zaire, to dinner in this same hall, I reasserted our approach to the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I told him that true and lasting peace in the Middle East implies an overall solution which would take the following elements into account, that is:

The rigorous application of all UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions;

The right of all states in the region to live in peace within their recognized, safe, and guaranteed borders;

The reciprocal recognition of states in the region;

The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the creation of an independent and sovereign state under the leadership of the PLO, its legal representative,

The respect for the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force.

The Jewish people, who have known the humiliation of the Diaspora and genocide, must be able to understand the sufferings of the Palestinians. It is unrealistic to seek to wipe out Israel, just as it is a serious error to exclude the Palestinian issue, which is a reality, from the Middle East conflict.

As you are aware, Mr President, our stand has varied neither before nor after we broke diplomatic relations with Israel nor when we resumed diplomatic relations with Israel. We still believe that it is through dialogue and agreement that the conflict that has been tearing that part of the world apart for 36 years now will be solved.

At the hour of making a decisive choice, we have noticed that politicians often lack courage. In this regard we must pay just tribute to Egypt and its leaders. They have in fact given the world an example of political courage and a firm historical vision for safeguarding [words indistinct] by facing the real problems directly.

The recognition of the State of Israel and the calm that followed on the western front merely confirm Egypt's leadership role and its influence on the affairs of such an explosive region. Rejecting sterile rhetoric and false taboos, Egypt has certainly tackled the basic problem by recognizing Israel and by continuing to support the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to set up an independent fatherland under the control of leaders of their choice. We encourage the Arab Republic of Egypt to stick to the path it has freely chosen.

Egypt's stand, as referred to earlier, is the same as ours, as is noticeable in other fields. In our continental organization the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, or the United Nations, our two countries have always striven together in perfect harmony.

We are satisfied, Mr President, that your country was elected a member of the Security Council because Egypt will be able to bring the weight of its wisdom and experience to bear on this important body.

Finally, we are satisfied with the joint initiative taken by our countries which resulted in the Khartoum discussion meeting held last November, attended by Egypt, Sudan, the CAR, Uganda and Zaire. By reasserting our participation in certain subregional bodies in this way, we are aiming to contribute to the creation of large subcontinental organizations which will prepare the way for the implementation of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act, because not only does the current system of international economic relations fail to respond to the needs and expectations of developing countries, and not only does it maintain the present inequalities, but it also aggravates the disadvantageous position of developing countries and widens the gap between them and the developed and industrialized nations.

In addition, what huge resources, evaluated at several billion dollars a year, are sunk into overarmament and wasted. However, we know that a freeze on all these expenditures for only a year would be enough to reduce the misery 75 percent of the world's population is suffering from. We must continue to hope that negotiations between the superpowers will continue and will really lead, one day, to total disarmament.

Peace, tolerance, noninterference, decolonization, the new world economic order, disarmament — these are the permanent components of the important challenge that our world of today must take up.

And with regard to most of these questions, Mr President, Egypt and Zaire share similar views, which ensures a certain future of cooperation and solidarity between our countries that we would like to be trusting, multifaceted, and fruitful.

'Ali Comments on Talks

NC011957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA) — Following the conclusion of the talks between the Egyptian and Zairian presidents, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the two presidents exchanged views on the Middle East problem, the Palestinian issue, and the efforts which Egypt is exerting to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

'Ali said the talks also dealt with Egypt's relations with the various parties, including Israel — relations which aim at lessening the tension in the area and paving the way for a peaceful settlement.

The talks also dealt with the recent visit of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Egypt as well as the outcome of the ICO conference and its effect on the settlement efforts.

In a statement to MENA 'Ali added that the talks also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and Egypt's views on how to solve this problem, to get the foreign forces out of Lebanon — starting with the Israeli forces — and to achieve national reconciliation.

'Ali said: We also discussed various African issues — the Western Sahara problem; the prospects for the next African summit, to be held in Conakry; the foreign ministers conference to be held in Addis Ababa; Chad, Namibia, South Africa, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Responding to a question, 'Ali underscored that the Egyptian and Zairian views are very close.

'Ali added that the talks also dealt with bilateral relations, stressing that Mubarak's visit to Zaire will open new horizons for these relations.

'Ali commented on the objectives of Mubarak's African tour, saying that since Mubarak took office he has assumed a policy of openness toward the whole world. Mubarak has paid several visits to the United States and has also visited Canada, West Europe, some East European countries, and Southeast Asia.

'Ali said Mubarak's tour of four African countries comes as one phase of his African visits, adding that Africa represents a major element in the framework of Egypt's diplomatic and political activity. 'Ali said: We always find the African brothers fully cooperative with Egypt. Egypt also fully cooperates with them, whether in the stage of liberation or in the stages of independence and the consolidation of independence.

'Ali said Egypt believes that African relations represent one of the basic factors around which Egyptian policy revolves. This is why Africa supported the nomination of Egypt to the UN Security Council seat and backed Egypt at the Havana nonaligned conference. This is also why the Islamic African countries adopted their positive stand during the discussion on the return of Egypt to the ICO. All of this illustrates how far our relations with Africa have gone.

Commenting on Zaire's importance to Egypt and Sudan, 'Ali said: We should not forget that when the Zairian crisis started in the early 1960's, Egypt hastened to send its paratroopers to participate in the peacekeeping forces, and when the "Shaba" incidents took place, Egypt never hesitated to support Zaire. This is what President Mobutu referred to during his speech yesterday at the dinner banquet he gave in honor of President Mubarak.

Mubarak Departs for Nairobi

AB021215 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Kinshasa at 1000 this morning for Nairobia, Kenya on the second stage of his tour of black Africa. Many militants bade farewell to the Egyptian statesman at the Ndjili Airport as well as all along the streets, followed by the presidential cortege.

Before accompanying his guest to the airport, the founding chairman of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] and president of the Republic had a final round of talks with him at the Marble Palace. These discussions were followed by the signing of the communique, which was kindly read to us by Citizen Umba Di Lutete, member of the Central Committee and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation.

IVORY COAST

UN's Perez de Cuellar Discusses African Tour

AB012132 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 1 Feb 84 p 6

[Excerpts] After having arrived in our country on Sunday for a 3-day official visit, UN Secretary General and Mrs Perez de Cuellar and the delegation accompanying them on their African tour left Abidjan early yesterday afternoon for Upper Volta (the next to the last stop on this West African tour).

The last day of the No 1 UN official and his delegation was marked by a visit to the African Development Bank (ADB) headquarters, followed by talks with Minister of Maritime Affairs Lamine Fadika and a press conference given by Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar at Port-Bouet Airport shortly before his departure.

The UN secretary general ended his visit by answering questions from journalists.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Mr Secretary General, after this 3-day visit to the Ivory Coast can you give us the results of your visit and meetings?

[Perez de Cuellar] I am extremely satisfied with my trip. It gave me the opportunity to exchange views with your president, who honored me by devoting a lot of his time to me. On the whole we reviewed a wide range of issues. As usual, I drew much inspiration from Mr Felix Houphouet-Boigny's thoughts.

I was able to meet several other Ivorian personages, among whom was my friend Mr Simeon Ake. Together we were able to discuss problems facing the Ivory Coast.

But, as I said on my arrival, I do not possess a magic formula, and neither do I come with a handful of promises.

We can at most help resolve certain problems, and in this respect I am very glad to see that world public opinion within the circles of the financial backers is reacting to Africa's needs. This is just the beginning, but is it all the same the start of aid that can turn out to be consistent.

Concerning the problem of drought and desert encroachment, and thus famine, we will do all in our power to coordinate our aid within the UN framework. The limits of this UN framework, which has no funds of its own, must, however, be recognized.

[Reporter] You devoted your last morning in the Ivory Coast to visiting Abidjan Harbor and to examining the project of the Academy of Marine Science and Technology. Should this be seen as an indication of the United Nations' special interest in maritime problems?

[Perez de Cuellar] I was astounded by this project, which is of extraordinary interest. I would like it to serve as a model for similar projects in other geographical regions (mine, Latin America, in particular). The conception of this comprehensive project is remarkable, and I am really proud that the United Nations contributed to this effort. The fact that the Marine Academy falls within the context of the UN Convention on Maritime Rights is a great achievement by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

[Reporter] The United Nations is aware of the numerous problems that compromise peace in Africa. Is this peace a mirage?

[Perez de Cuellar] I think peace can be achieved in Africa through the resolution of the Namibian problem, which alone can create a great upsurge of confidence. We closely follow the problems of Chad and Western Sahara with the thought that one should never despair. We are, however, convinced that it is important to deploy all efforts within the framework of the OAU, which, no doubt, is the best institution to provide a solution to African problems.

MALI

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives for 2-Day Visit

AB011907 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, arrived in Bamako at noon for a 48-hour visit to our country. He is accompanied by Salman (al-Hilli), official responsible for African affairs in the PLO Political Department. The PLO chairman was welcomed at the Bamako-Senou International Airport by the president of the Republic, General Moussa Traore, who was accompanied by His Excellency 'Abd ar-Rahim Abu (Raba), head of the PLO diplomatic mission in Mali. Also present at the airport were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the Bureau of the National Assembly, and the diplomatic corps. Mr Yasir 'Arafat told our correspondent (Thomas Mathieu Kone) that his visit is within the framework of the unflinching support of the Malian people to the just cause of the PLO:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat in Arabic fading into French translation] After the successful meeting of the ICO and after the intensified talks with Mr President in Casablanca, I personally asked him to allow me to visit the Republic of Mali to thank your country as well as the Malian people for their unflinching support for the PLO.

[(Kone)] Mr Chairman, after your departures from Beirut and Tripoli, what is the situation of the PLO and the Palestinian people?

['Arafat] Perhaps we are passing through a more difficult and tougher situation. We have just come out of a continued battle which began on 4 June 1982 and during which we were faced with an enemy [words indistinct] in the Middle East region, but (?what we can see) from battle is our conviction and our determination to achieve our inalianable rights, in particular those of self-determination and of the establishment of a Palestinian state under national Palestinian (?control).

[(Kone)] Mr Chairman, can we now talk of any rapprochement between the PLO and Egypt?

['Arafat] To this end, I would like to recall the resolution adopted by our Executive Committee in Algiers which favored rapprochement with Egypt, because of this country's role in civilization, in particular on the African scene, and because of its historic role. It is also in view of Egypt's stand during the Beirut siege and during the Tripoli fighting when it supported us. We have since that time hoped for a rapprochement with the Egyptians. [end recording]

At 1400, the PLO chairman held talks with President Moussa Traore at the People's Hall. A working session will be held at 1500 between members of the Palestinian delegation and the Malian side. The meeting will take place at the Palace of the Council of Ministers at Koulouba. At 1800, Yasir 'Arafat will meet with members of the Malian Association for Friendship and Solidarity With the Palestinian People and the Arab World. Tomorrow, our guests will attend the inauguration ceremony of (Al-Islam) Avenue.

NIGERIA

Government Plans Closer Watch on Expatriates

AB011155 Paris AFP in English 0346 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 1 (AFP) — Nigeria intends to keep a closer watch on the allocation of expatriate quota — an official formula regulating the employment of foreigners in Nigeria — Internal Affairs Minister Brigabier Mohammed Magoro said here.

Briefing senior ministry officials, Brigadier Magoro, who is a member of the ruling 19-man Supreme Military Council (SMC), said that the Quota Issuance Advisory Committee was to be reviewed.

"Nigeria has suffered enough from the nefarious activities of some foreign personnnel and the so-called foreign investors, who engage in different types of malpractices in favor of their parent companies," the brigadier said. He said there were sufficient Nigerians to fill posts where expatriates were often employed.

Brig. Magoro observed that graduate unemployment had risen steeply in the country, and warned that the credentials of prospective employees would be thoroughly checked to ensure that Nigeria got value for its money.

In a related development, Brig. Magoro has directed all diplomatic missions in Nigeria to submit monthly lists of the names and addresses of their nationals living in Nigeria. He said that traditional rulers, including village and clan heads, have been asked to help by reporting suspected illegal immigrants. The public, Brig. Magoro said, also should supply information about the entry, movement and activities of "any alien" considered "inimical" to Nigeria's interest.

Nigeria expelled about two million illegal immigrants, mainly from neighboring west African states, early last year. Some are now reported to have returned to the country, allegedly with help from immigration officials. Brig. Magoro said that the country's "porous" borders made illegal entry simple.

Meanwhile, more than 200 officers were dismissed Tuesday from Nigeria's Customs and Excise Department for various cases of "misconduct" ranging from smuggling, forgery, and defrauding to impersonation.

240 Customs Officers Dismissed

AB011847 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Two hundred and forty officers of the Customs and Excise Department have been dismissed with immediate effect. They are made up of 65 senior officers and 175 junior officers. The affected persons, whose dismissal were approved by the Supreme Military Council, were said to have committed serious misconducts. These include aiding and abetting smuggling, illegal (?machining) of bills of entries outside customs (?strongroom), forgery and falsification of documents with the view to defrauding the government of revenues, and illegal patrols and mounting of illegal roadblocks. Some of them had obtained employment into the department with forged certificates, engaged in impersonation, burglary and stealing of seized goods from government warehouses, as well as illegal release of various seized goods.

In a statement, the minister of finance, Dr O.O. Soleye, emphasized that the housecleaning in the Department of Customs and Excise will be a continuous exercise.

64 Security Officers Retired in Clean-Up Drive

AB012105 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Sixty-four senior officers of the Nigeria Security Organization, NSO, have been retired. One of the officers was dismissed. A Federal Government statement in Lagos today said the officers were sacked for corruption, divided loyalty, and unproductivity. The government said the clean-up exercise at the NSO will be a continuous one.

SENEGAL

Algerian Foreign Minister Ibrahimi Visits, Comments

AB011240 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Dakar this evening. He was received on arrival by his Senegalese counterpart, Moustapha Niasse. Mr Ibrahimi, who will spend a day in our country, gives the reason for his visit to the press. Let's listen:

[Begin recording] Before I can say anything else, I would like to express my great pleasure to be in Senegal, among my brothers. I have brought warm, brotherly greetings from the Algerian people, their party — the FLN — and their leader, President

Chadli Bendjedid, to the Senegalese people, their government, and President Abdou Diouf.

My presence in Dakar is an undisputable proof of the political will on the part of the leaders of Algeria and Senegal to promote permanent consultations in line with the friendship existing between the two countries. Such consultations will make it possible for us to find ways and means to continue to develop or bilateral relations on the one hand and to design appropriate solutions to overcome the challenges — the grave challenges — facing our continent on the other.

I am convinced that through joint efforts, at all levels and on every occasion, Algeria and Senegal can achieve their common goals, that is, to consolidate their bilateral cooperation, strengthen our national independence, find African solutions to African problems, and lastly to make it possible for our continent to play its rightful role on the international front. I thank you. [end recording]

Arrives From Nouakchott
LD011116 Algiers APS in English 0959 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Dakar, 1/2/84 (APS) — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Dakar last night at the head of an important delegation, coming from Nouakchott.

In the Mauritanian capital Mr Ibrahimi had talks with visiting Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin [Beye]. Another series of talks was also held between foreign ministers of Mauritania, Mali, and Algeria to examine ways of promoting cooperation between their countries.

At arrival last evening in Dakar Mr Ibrahimi was greeted by Moustapha Niasse, Senegal state minister for foreign affairs.

In a brief statement to the press the head of the Algerian diplomacy, who is carrying a message from President Chadli to President Abdou Diouf, said his presence in Dakar reflects the political will of the two governments to promote a permanent consultation conforming to the friendship linking the two peoples.

The foreign minister said this continous consultation is an opportunity to seek ways of promoting a multiform bilateral cooperation as well as means of facing problems of the continent.

He expressed his conviction that Senegal-Algeria joint efforts will consolidate their relations and national independences and will help the continent in playing its important role on the international scene.

The foreign minister will be received by President Abdou Diouf; he will attend also the ceremony marking the celebration of the Senegambian Confederation.

Mr Ibrahimi is due to return to Algiers in the evening.

Abdou Diouf Returns From Sahel Summit on Drought
AB011851 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President Abdou Diouf returned to Dakar this afternoon at the end of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel summit, which was held in Niamey, capital of Niger. The head of state was met upon his arrival in Dakar by the speaker of the National Assembly, the chairman of the Economic and Social Council, the minister of state for foreign affairs, as well as several members of government, of the National Assembly, the diplomatic corps, Army officers, and civilian authorities.

SIERRA LEONE

Country's Economic Difficulties Documented
AB011445 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 31 Jan 84

[By Patrick van Roekeghem]

[Text] Freetown, Jan 31 (AFP) — Serious economic and financial difficulties have forced the Government of Sierra Leone to turn to the International Monetary Fund in an bid to avert a situation that could eventually lead to violence like the student riots that left four dead and several injured two weeks ago.

At the beginnning of last year, Sierra Leone authorities started negotiating with the IMF, which agreed to grant the West African country a little over 20 million dollars. Last December, a letter of intent was signed by Sierra Leone which will soon bring in further IMF aid of 53 million dollars. In return, Finance Minister Salia Jusu-Sheriff took decisive measures which satisfied the IMF, but were unpopular among Sierra Leoneans. He devalued the local currency, the leone, by 50 percent, which caused extraordinary price hikes and brought inflation to an estimated 100 percent last year.

Measures taken periodically to rid the country's ailing economy from smuggling — along with corruption, one of its main ills — have failed. Because of the weaker leone, produce from Sierra Leone flows in quantities into neighbouring Liberia, which benefits from the Liberian dollar, a hard currency backed by the U.S. dollar. Thus, output of the country's main asset, diamonds, officially slumped to 303,000 carats in 1982 compared with two million in 1969, but there was no doubt here that smuggling, rather than a real fall in production, was to blame. A large proportion of the country's cocoa and coffee, which represent 14 percent of exports, also crossed the border illegally. The government increased prices to producers to encourage them to sell for leones inside the country, but its struggle against other illicit price hikes was hampered by corruption.

Lacking hard currency, the country faces constant shortages, with latent dissatisfaction among its people. In 1981 there were riots over the price and scarcity of rice, the basic food, which is still very expensive compared with annual salaries as low as 1,000 leones (around 400 dollars). Periodic shortages of oil, which comes mainly from Nigeria but is sometimes paid for by other

countries, also means the local refinery stops producing and long queues of cars form at filling stations to wait for a delivery.

Sierra Leone authorities are constrained to tailor their political policies to the needs of the economy, which has led Sierra Leone to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic of Western Sahara to attract the favor of Libya — for oil — and Algeria, which supplied 50 Mercedes cars when Freetown hosted the 1980 Organization of African Unity summit. But since then, relations between Freetown and Tripoli have soured, and Sierra Leone has condemned what it sees as Libyan interference almost everywhere in Africa.

Saudi Arabia and Morocco have apparently taken over from Libya and Algeria, Riyadh providing two million dollars worth of essential commodities. There is increasing talk of opening a Saudi Embassy in Freetown, which is currently covered diplomatically by the ambassador in Senegal. Again, as a result of serious oil problems, Sierra Leone wooed Iran, leading to the establishment of diplomatic relations last year and an agreement for about 350,000 tons of Iranian crude.

Tens of thousands of Lebanese merchants dominate commercial actitives here and many Sierra Leoneans recognise their hold on the economy but view them as indispensable to keep the economic wheels turning for better or worse. External aid is also indispensable, whatever the source.

The countries that keep embassies here are of various political colours, somewhat like the government itself, which professes to be leftist but is resolutely moderate and pro-Western. Thus, both North and South Korea are represented here, and both give significant aid to Sierra Leone, as does China. Beijing has just built a 400-office ministerial complex and a police headquarters, and is equally engaged in the fields of health, hydro-electric power and sugar production.

The Soviet Union appears to be less in favor because of the abundance of its trawlers in Sierra Leonean waters under a fishing agreement which seemed to put Freetown at the losing end. A new agreement provides for the 31 Soviet trawlers operating — and which sell half their catch to Sierra Leone — to be paid partly in leones, instead of all in hard currency as before.

The United States supplies around three million dollars worth of rice yearly, but the bulk of its aid goes to neighboring Liberia. Aid from Sierra Leone's former coloniser, Britain, is relatively small.

TOGO

Yugoslav, Gabonese Minister Meet With Eyadema

AB011055 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Head of state General Gnassingbe Eyadema this morning received two foreign officials at the Presidential Palace. They are Dr Milenko Bojanic, Yugoslav minister of foreign trade and transport, and Martin Bongo, Gabonese minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

Dr Milenko Bojanic, who was the first to be received, was leading a high-powered delegation of economic, agricultural, and industrial experts who have been visiting Lome since last Sunday. The audience was granted in the presence of Moussa Barque, minister of energy, mines, and hydraulic resources, and Radivoje Petkovic, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Togo. The Yugoslav minister told the press what he discussed with the head of state General Eyadema.

[Begin Bojanic recording in Serbo-Croatian with simultaneous translation into French] His excellency the president of the Republic received us for about 1 hour. We were accompanied by my counterpart, Minister Barque. The audience was granted us in the framework of the visit of a high-powered delegation from Yugoslavia which consists of experts who have come to Togo to examine the possible areas of cooperation between our two countries. At the political level, the relations between the two countries are excellent. We are jointly making great efforts in the struggle for peace and to stop the threats of war. We try our best to solve all the problems in the world today without interference. In that regard, we are on the same path that was drawn by our late president a long time ago. We also suggested that the economic relations be raised to a [word indistinct] level in order to correspond to the excellent political relations between the two countries. This can be done in two ways: That is, we have to initiate a relationship of cooperation in the fields of agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, mines, and industry. We have also to increase the volume of trade. Of course, we have to benefit from each other's various techniques, because as far as cooperation is concerned, there will be normal trading, there will also be agreements on the financing of projects, and there can also be agreement on a long-time basis. With all this in view, we have to develop our cooperation generally. We briefed the head of state on all these aspects and he encouraged us to continue in that direction.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the President recalled with enthusiasm the memory of our late President Tito. [words indistinct] What is very striking is the intention of countries to continue respecting the original principles of the Nonaligned Movement. [end recording]

Bojanic Delegation Departs

AB020920 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign trade, Milenko Bojanic, left Lome late this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to our country. He was seen off at the Lome-Tokoin International Airport by Moussa Barry Barque, minister of mines, energy, hydraulic resources and public works; Pali Tchalla, minister of commerce and transport; and Radivoje Petkovic, Yugoslav ambassador to Togo.

In an interview which he granted to the press shortly before his departure, Mr Bojanic stressed the excellent relations existing between Yugoslavia and Togo.

Eyadema Receives Message from Nigeria's Buhari

AB012110 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, this morning received at the Presidential Palace in Lome Mr Oshodi, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Togo. The diplomat brought a message from Major General Muhammadu Buhari, the Nigerian head of state, to General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

[Begin Oshodi recording in English fading into French translation] This is not the first contact as such; you recall that for the 13 January anniversary my head of state had already sent a message of good will to his excellency, President Eyadema. The purpose of my visit today is to deliver a personal letter from my head of state to President Eyadema. Of course, you know that a change of government has taken place in Nigeria, and you also know that everybody was aware of what was the situation in Nigeria and that the change was brought about by economic problems. This is why I came here this morning, and this is the content of the message I brought to the Togolese president. [end recording].

UPPER VOLTA

Perez de Cuellar Visits; Itinerary Noted

AB011020 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] As you already know, the UN secretary general has been the guest of the Upper Voltan authorities since yesterday afternoon. Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar is thus paying a 2-day visit to our country.

Today, Mr Perez de Cuellar will visit the construction site of the Ouagadougou-Kaya railroad. From there he will go to the Ofnacer [National Cereal Bureau], where he will be presented with the food situation in the country. Before returning to his hotel, where a lunch will be offered him by the comrade minister of state, the UN secretary general will preside over the inauguration of the Superior School of Health Science complex at Ouagadougou University.

This afternoon he will have a working session at the Cabinet Hall. At 2000 Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar will give a reception at the (Silimande) Hotel.

It must be recalled that yesterday evening the UN secretary general held private talks with the head of state. A reception was also organized for him by the comrade chairman.

Earlier, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar went to the UN Square, where he hoisted the flag of the international organization. It must be noted that Mr Perez de Cuellar is coming to us straight from Abidjan, but before visiting the Ivorian capital, he went successively to Bamako, Niamey, Cotonou, Lagos, and Lome. After our country, which he leaves tomorrow, Thursday, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar will go to Dakar, Senegal.

Sankara Speaks at Dinner

AB011957 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Speech by Head of State Thomas Sankara at dinner in honor of visiting Javier Perez de Cuellar on 31 January in Ouagadougou — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Secretary General, my first words will be to express the Upper Voltan people's gratitude to you for the spontaneity with which you accepted their invitation. Your presence in Ouagadougou, which is another stop in a long trip, demonstrates the keen attention you personally attach to the various problems confronting the African Continent. We hail this personal attention as the best way to judge for yourself the extent and effects of these problems.

In 1984 prospects for food in Africa have become bleaker than ever. Twenty-four countries, including Upper Volta, are suffering from chronic cereal shortage. In these countries food production cannot cover the needs of the population, which increases at a higher rate. The serious food shortage in these countries is not a new thing. Indeed, for some of them, it is the immediate effect of drought which, since 1973, keeps coming back with its attendant result of more hungry people, cattle growing leaner and leaner, and the desert spreading wider and wider.

In the face of this catastrophe, it is surprising to note that the international community's reaction has always been more curative than preventive. Through some humanitarian gestures, each year the problem is alleviated. But these gestures are only enough to tackle the effects, but never enough to go down to the root causes. It is therefore high time we ask ourselves some questions and review such a practice if we are not to see the countries concerned forced to go on begging for decades to come. We remain firmly convinced that the real solution to this problem does not reside in regular action of emergency food aid, but in the middle- and long-term operation of productive investments. It is in such investments that the United Nations should from now on devote much of its efforts, for however generous aid can be, it will only serve as a palliative.

Mr Secretary General, after the failure of the sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Upper Volta, like many other countries, based its hopes on the 38th ordinary session of the General Assembly. But this session did not respond to our expectations. On the contrary, it was an occasion once more to note the existence of deep disagreement between industrialized countries and developing countries. These disagreements were shown at various levels — global negotiations, money and finance, science and technology in the service of development, disarmament, and the implementation of the substantial program of action for the less developed countries. Three months of debate were not able to bring about any positive results, nor were they able to bring about the least agreement on peace and international security.

To maintain and protect their selfish interests, some big powers take delight in creating or maintaining pockets of tension in Africa, Asia, Latin America. Each day, the Security Council looks on helplessly, because of the veto of the same powers, at the

violation of the sacred principles of the Charter. Each day, peace and international security is threatened. Israel, like the racist and fascist regime of South Africa, no longer hides the scorn in which it holds the international community's decisions. But it is true that since 1945, the location of wars has moved, for whenever the cannon booms, it is either in Africa, Asia, or Latin America. And this does not bother Washington, London, and Paris.

In fact, the future of the organization seems only to concern the wretched of the earth. Those who created it, and who should have been the guarantors of peace in this place where they have created the privileged spot for themselves, give us the impression that they have placed their faith elsewhere. This is the context in which Upper Volta, for the first time in its history as an independent, free and sovereign nation, is making its entry into the Security Council.

The appeal you made in your second annual report of 1983, and I quote: "I appeal to governments to modify their policies so as to give the Security Council the political authority it lacks in the maintenance of peace and international security," has still not been heard, especially from those countries to which it was particularly addressed. Thus, Namibia is still under colonial yoke; racist South Africa continues not only to practice arrogantly its apartheid, but also occupies a part of southern Angola; the refusal to give the Palestinian problem, which is the root of the Middle East problem, the suitable solution; the sovereignty of states is violated here and there in Africa, and in Latin America.

At the economic level as well as the political level, prospects are very bleak. In the face of such a situation, Upper Volta is aware of its responsibility in its capacity as a member of the Security Council. It intends to assume them fully and in all sovereignty, strong with the confidence reposed in it by member states of the United Nations which elected it to this important organ.

RSA, Mozambique, Portugal To Meet Over Cahora Bassa

MB011941 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] A South African delegation is to meet representatives of the Governments of Mozambique and Portugal in Lisbon on the 14th and 15th of this month to discuss the existing agreement on the Cahora Bassa project. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced in Cape Town that the delegation would be led by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel. The delegation consists of senior officials of the Departments of Mineral and Energy Affairs, of Foreign Affairs, of Industries and Commerce, of Finance, and of ESCOM [Electricity Supply Commission].

SADCC Asks Donors for Food, Drought Aid

MB020734 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The Southern African Development Coordination Conference's [SADCC] Council of Ministers has asked donor countries and agencies to finance agricultural projects worth more than 200 million kwacha. Addressing the press and the ministerial council, which met at Mulungushi Hall in Lusaka, Zimbabwe Agriculture Minister Mr Denis Norman, whose (?country) has been charged with the responsibility of coordinating agricultural projects in the region, said the money was for food aid and alleviating the effects of drought in the future. He added that SADCC had already received 22 million kwacha from partners at the Maseru consultative meeting last year, adding that 70 million was still being negotiated.

ANGOLA

RSA Said To Continue Occupying Cunene Province

LD012139 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] South Africa continues to occupy a portion of Angola's Cunene Province, despite yesterday's announcement by South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha of a withdrawal of his troops from Angola. This was disclosed to the ANGOP office in Huila by the commander of the 5th Military Region of the People's Republic of Angola.

MOZAMBIQUE

Government Reports Freeing 12 Soviet Technicians

MB021200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Communique from FPLM General Staff in Maputo on 1 February]

[Text] On 21 August 1983, a group of armed bandits attacked the pegmatite mines in Morrua, Zambezia Province, to kidnap foreign technicians, sow terror, and paralyze the mines, which are of great importance to the national economy. The attack was part of a vast criminal conspiracy aimed at obstructing economic cooperation between Mozambique and friendly countries, and in this case the USSR. Above all, it was aimed at blocking the national effort in the fight against misery and underdevelopment and for the building of socialism.

The Mozambique Armed Forces carried out a number of actions aimed at gaining the release of the kidnapped Soviet foreign aid workers. The nature of the objective — the release of the technicians — required great prudence and rigorous preparation.

On 16 September, 27 October, and 1 December 1983 in (Erururume), Mureremba, and Mongoe, respectively, eight kidnapped technicians were freed following operations.

On 20 January 1984, following diligent preparations, an intense operation was mounted involving approximately 2,500 soldiers and 500 militiamen against armed bandit bases in the Morrumbala area near the border. As a result of this and other actions, another 12 Soviet technicians were freed on 26 January 1984. They are: (Veseniy Vladimir); (Aleksandr Bahmiy); (Kaustof Vadim); (Sinelskiy Vichlav); (Georgiy Aruthnov); (Ivan Gargavich); (Akadiyev Garafutin); (Vladimir Popov); (Vladimir Tirakofia); (Aleksandr Kucherov); (Sergey Tirakofia); and (Vla dimir Yurnits). Most of them, who are in Maputo under medical observation, have recovered following intense medical tests.

The General Staff respectively salutes the extreme discipline, spirit of sacrifice, devotion, and fighting ability of the officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and militiamen engaged in the operation. It particularly salutes the people's participation during this time.

The struggle continues.

[Issued in] Maputo, 1 February 1984

Crocker Arrives in Maputo for Talks With Machel

MB011850 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker arrived in Maputo this evening, and he is to have talks with President Samora Machel tomorrow.

Mr Crocker said he had come to exchange views with one of the key leaders of the frontline states on efforts to reduce violence and strengthen the peace process in southern Africa. He said he imagined he and President Samora would discuss the situation in the region as a whole, as well as Namibia and bilateral relations between the United States and Mozambique.

Mr Crocker, who is on a tour of the region which has taken him to South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania, said his talks with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere had been very useful. He leaves Mozambique for South Africa tomorrow afternoon.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO To Continue Fighting Despite RSA Declaration

MB011715 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1710 GMT 1 Feb 84

[By Peter Wilson]

[Text] London, Feb 1, SAPA — SWAPO forces will continue to fight inside SWA/Namibia despite the South African Government's decision to disengage its forces from Angola. This was said here today by SWAPO's West European information officer, Mr Peter Manning.

He told SAPA that unless the government agreed to a ceasefire as the first step in the implementation of the United Nations plan for the territory's independence, "soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia will continue the armed struggle inside Namibia — and South Africa will undoubtedly use this as an excuse to continue its war against Angola."

In reaction to the prime minister Mr P.W. Botha's statement to Parliament yesterday, he said: "Botha's announcement of the so-called disengagement in Angola does not directly involve SWAPO, nor does it have anything to do with UN Security Council Revolution 435 of 1978 (the independence plan).

"What they are trying to do is relieve the immense diplomatic pressure on themselves that has been building up during the last few months. At the pending Security Council meeting due within the next few weeks, the pressure will be on South Africa to agree to a ceasefire date and to begin the implementation of the UN plan for independence elections in Namibia. They are attempting to create the illusion that it is others and not themselves who are to blame for the impasse. No one should be fooled by this."

When the foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, first offered the disengagement on December 15 last year, he said in a message to the UN secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, that he was doing so on the understanding that the gesture would be reciprocated by the Angolan Government, which would assure that its own forces, SWAPO, and the Cubans would not exploit the resulting situation.

SWAPO's hard-line attitude follows its repeated statements that the only ceasefire agreement it is prepared to discuss is within the terms of Resolution 435 — which means the government would have to agree to put the plan into operation. This it refuses to do until Cuban troops leave Angola.

MPC Delegates Welcome Increased Responsibility

MB011143 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1133 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Windhoek, Feb 1, SAPA — As South African forces began the second day of disengagement in Angola, delegates to SWA/Namibia's multi-party conference took a recess today. A spokesman said MPC committees would begin preparatory work on Monday for the next plenary session on February 13.

Delegates said they would seize the opportunity granted them by South Africa to accept increased responsiblility in matters concerning SWA/Namibia.

The MPC said in a statement it would cooperate "with the South African Government and members of the international community in urgently identifying ways and means of working out a political and constitutional dispensation which will be acceptable to the people as a whole, and which will be within the framework established by South Africa and the Western Contact Group."

Representatives said the MPC was not contemplating the formation of an interim government at this time, but sources close to the conference said its new standing would involve an active part in all negotiations concerning the future of SWA/Namibia.

The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, said his government was determined to resolve the SWA/Namibian issue "one way or the other, and as soon as possible." That position had been conveyed to a delegation of the MPC in Cape Town at the weekend.

"It is up to the political leaders of SWA to decide what they are going to do and do so urgently," he said.

Malan: Defense Force To Remain Despite Disengagement

MB011735 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Commenting on the beginning of the disengagement of South African forces in Angola, the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, said that the step did not mean that the Defense Force would reduce its presence in South-West Africa. Although South Africa believed that the disengagement was a step in the direction of peace, it could still be a long time before peace was actually attained, and the Defense Force would therefore remain alert. He said it would be foolish to reduce the strength of the Defense Force in South-West Africa at present.

SOUTH AFRICA

Defense Minister Malan Announces Spy Exposed

MB011516 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1510 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] House of Assembly, Feb 1, SAPA — Another member of the defence force has been exposed as a spy, the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, announced today. General Malan said he could give no further details regarding the person's identity or the espionage activities.

"When the investigations are completed, further announcements will be made in this regard."

Speaking in the no confidence debate, he warned that South Africa could expect increased espionage activities, adding that activities of this kind were damaging to any country. "Russian espionage penetration is world-wide and is not confined to South Africa. It is, in fact, more successful in other major countries."

Citing examples, he said that certain spies had gone undetected in the United States and in Britain for periods of 30 years and more.

No Need Seen for Panel on U.S. Computer Shipments

MB020601 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says a commission will not be set up to investigate possible South African involvement in the shipment of computer equipment from the United States to the Soviet Union, because the facts of the matter do not justify it. Mr Botha said in answer to a question in the House of Assembly that the National Intelligence Service had gathered valuable information on the issue and had distributed it to the Western powers concerned.

SWAZILAND

Dlamini Says International Aid Begins Arriving

MB011635 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, today told a press conference that a number of friendly countries have already started sending help to Swaziland following the heavy rains which left Swaziland without roads and a number of people homeless.

The foreign minister said foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations resident in Swaziland have already been briefed about the disaster, adding that a number of them have expressed willingness to help Swaziland in these difficult days.

Mr Dlamini said his office also sent cables to all the Kingdom's missions abroad informing them about the disaster. The foreign minister said it was difficult so far to say how many people have died and how much damage has been done, because there is no way the emergency committee can reach some of the affected areas.

ZAMBIA

Minister Praises Nigerian Support for Namibia

AB020938 Lagos NAN in English 0915 GMT 2 Feb 84

[By Adewale Fatona]

[Text] Lusaka, Feb 1 (NAN) — Zambia yesterday in Lusaka commended Nigeria for its "clear and principled" stand on liberation struggles in southern Africa.

Zambia's foreign affairs minister, Prof Lameck Goma, said, "Nigeria has rendered concrete and practical support to the people of Namibia in the struggle for independence, and to the people of South Africa in their struggle for the eradication of the obnoxious system of apartheid in the country."

At a luncheon for the out-going Nigerian high commissioner, Chief Moses Ogunmola, the foreign affairs minister said that Nigeria has shown great sensitivity to the problem of the Front-line States and expressed solidarity with them in concrete terms. Prof Goma said that the number of Nigerian experts working in Zambia grew from 16 in 1981 to 211 currently, adding that "this is a testimony of the concept of South-South cooperation."

Chief Ogunmola said that Nigeria would do all it could to enhance the dignity and pride of Africans. The out-going envoy, according to the southern African correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN), also said that the Military Government would continue to work with friendly nations for the eradication of apartheid.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Reaffirms No Diplomatic Ties With RSA

MB020651 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, has reiterated that Zimbabwe will continue to have economic ties with apartheid-ruled South Africa, but will not establish political or diplomatic relations.

Comrade Mangwende told the House of Assembly yesterday that Zimbabwe cannot choose it neighbors, therefore on the economic front it has allowed South Africa to maintain a trade mission in Harare while Zimbabwe has a trade representative in Johannesburg. On the political front, the minister said that it was up to the Pretoria regime, which is destabilizing Zimbabwe and other countries in southern Africa. He emphasized that Zimbabwe's position in its relationship with South Africa has always been very clear since independence.

In answer to allegations that ZBC broadcasts against South Africa do not help to improve relations, Comrade Mangwende said the ZBC had done a good job because it is only calling a spade a spade.

Mugabe Opens PTA Clearinghouse, Discusses Trade

MB011356 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has officially opened the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, clearinghouse in Harare. The opening follows the PTA heads of state and government meeting and Council of Ministers' meeting held in December last year. The two meetings approved their decision to make the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe the PTA interim clearinghouse for the next 2 years.

Comrade Mugabe, who is chairman of the PTA authority, said the main function of the clearinghouse is to encourage the use of national currencies of member states in trade exchanges. He said one of the major constraints facing trade in African countries is the excessive dependence on exchange values of international currencies. The prime minister said the agreement reached by

the reserve banks and clearing and payments committees for the interim 2-year period, and the regulations governing the operations of the house, must be observed if the venture is to succeed. Comrade Mugabe said the effects of low export prices for products from developing countries, and the decreasing aid, as well as the acute shortage of foreign currency, are making it difficult for countries in southern Africa to trade profitably among themselves.

Minister Details Action Against 'Bandits, Spies'

MB020737 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, says 459 bandits have either been killed or captured since operations against them began. Comrade Munanagagwa told *THE HERALD* that most of those captured professed loyalty to ZAPU, while a very small percentage claimed allegiance to the United African National Council. He said 22 infiltrators have been killed or arrested since independence, and this includes those who were killed by the security forces after entering Zimbabwe.

The minister also said the government is holding three South African spies under preventive detention. All have proven connections with the Pretoria regime's intelligence services, and were former members of the Rhodesian Central Branch, and Central Intelligence Organization.

Dissident Acts in Matabeleland, Midlands Tallied

MB020822 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The government says since January last year 120 people have been killed, 25 mutilated, and 47 raped by bandits in parts of Matabeleland North and the Midlands. Expressing concern at these activities against defenseless civilians, a Department of Information statement said most of the victims were government employees and ZANU-PF officials and supporters. The statement says because of these bandits' activities, development projects such as the construction of dams, roads, and other rural infrastructures have been hampered.